The Other Outage Season—Underground Faults

Unlike in winter, spring outages can occur when skies are clear and hardly a breeze is blowing. In fact, that's usually when they occur, because they're caused by moisture rising out of warming soil and moving past 30-year-old electric lines buried directly in the ground. A pinhole-sized nick is all it takes to lose power to a neighborhood.

Today most of the PUD's underground wire is placed in conduit. Not so in many neighborhoods built in the 80s or before, like Kala Point or Port Ludlow where trenches were dug, and lines were placed.

An underground fault occurs when the outer sheath of a line wears through to the copper within that acts as the ground. This is known as a "phase-to-ground", causing the outage which is detected by the PUD's outage management system.

Line crews can quickly identify the region via mapping, but defining an exact location requires a mix of experience and a specialized device called a "thumper". A thumper connects to the isolated line section, sending a high voltage pulse that, above ground, can be heard by the line crew. The line crew must walk the length of the isolated line to locate the sound emitted when the voltage exits the fault. The thumper allows crews to step-up voltage until the

Know Before You Grow—Vegetation Policy

Keep vegetation away from utility equipment to reduce outages.

The PUD commission approved an updated vegetation management policy to help better define utility rights of way, easements, and line clearance expectations for safe access by line crews.

The policy addresses current and future concerns for planting vegetation that may interfere with utility equipment. Tree and vegetation contact is the number one cause of outages in Jefferson County.

Homeowners who are considering planting near a utility right-of-way should consult the updated policy to better understand required clearances, customer responsibilities, and trimming policies and practices

Plant at least 5ft from the base of utility poles and keep vegetation less than 8ft from the ground.

Avoid planting closer than 10ft from the front and 3ft from the sides of any padmount transformer.

Low-growing trees & shrubs only (less than 15' when mature)
The PUD is partnering with the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board and AmeriCorps staff to control noxious weeds along transmission line corridors. The PUD needs to keep transmission corridors clear to access lines in case of needed repair.

Crews will remove noxious scotch broom, poison hemlock, spotted knapweed, and common teasel from line corridors between the Paper Mill and Anderson Lake Rd on June 20-29 and July 18-21.

Questions about the program? Contact the Noxious Weed Coordinator, Sophie DeGroot at sdegroot@co.jefferson.wa.us or (360)316-9332.

Questions or Quibbles? news@jeffpud.org

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Glass

- Clean bottles and jars
- ONLY labels OK

- NO lids
- NO blue glass
- NO other glass
- NO dirty containers!

Plastic and Cans

- ONLY bottles & jugs
- NO lids
- NO other plastics!

- Metal cans
- NO loose lids

- NO used plastic bottles for motor oil, antifreeze, weed killer, etc.

Recycling MUST BE rinsed thoroughly, empty, and loose in the bins—not bagged!

Corrugated Cardboard

- CLEAN CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
- NO food, wax or plastic coating

- Curbside service: bundle & tie
- For all: flatten

Look for the wavy lines

Mixed Paper

- Boxes, paper bags, newspaper, magazines, office paper, junk mail

If it’s not on this list, we can’t recycle it! No “wish cycling” please!

Started June 1, 2022

These materials have been funded in part by the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance program from the Washington State Department of Ecology.
Alkaline batteries are considered safe to put in the trash. They are NOT recyclable.

Lithium, button, and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. These are FIRE HAZARDS in the landfill!

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Secure your load! It’s the law.

If an item is not on our list, it’s not recyclable in Jefferson County!
Separating our recycling ensures it is recyclable and reduces contamination.

Want to make a difference? Try this inverted waste pyramid:

- **Refuse**: Try not to buy items that aren’t reusable or come in plastic or other non-recyclable packaging.
- **Reduce**: Buy fewer non-recyclable or non-reusable items. Bring your own containers for items sold in bulk.
- **Reuse/Return**: Reuse shopping and produce bags. Buy milk or other products in returnable bottles. Use durable and reusable water bottles, mugs, to-go containers, straws, and silverware.
- **Recycle**: Recycling is important, but it takes energy to break down paper, glass, metal, and plastic to make new products. In 2021, Jefferson County residents prevented 3,833 tons from going to the landfill by recycling right! Way to go, Jefferson County!
- **Landfill**: Collecting items that are not recyclable saves landfill space!

Recycle plastics by TYPE, not by NUMBER
Numbers are outdated and misleading. They were not created to tell whether something is recyclable. They stand for which resin is the primary ingredient in the plastic. Any plastic besides bottles and jugs contaminates the load!

- Prescription pill bottles are NOT recyclable.
- Empty plastic bottles that contain hazardous materials like motor oil, antifreeze, weed killer, etc. go in the trash. Bottles containing these products can be brought to HHW collection events.

Compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes
They can be dropped off locally at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. **DO NOT** put them in glass recycling. Due to their mercury content, they are **hazardous waste**!

Questions? [www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com](http://www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com)