



Jefferson County  
Public Utility District

# How the PUD MASTERS the DISASTER

December  
2025

Winter weather is unpredictable, with cool, crisp sunshine quickly turning to gale-force winds and torrential rains just moments later.

## *During the Storm*

A storm-related outage can stem from something as simple as a branch across the lines to severe damage to a substation. Regardless of the situation, PUD staff must patrol the lines to identify issues, and safety is key. Sustained high winds over 30mph and icy conditions can ground utility crews.

Reports of an emergency situation—such as those involving a live line on the ground—always take priority during outages. Crew may abruptly leave a site during a repair to respond to reports of a potentially hazardous situation elsewhere.

## *A Surgical Approach to Restoration*

Restoration response from the utility perspective often resembles a medical checkup, and it all starts with the beating heart of the grid: the substation. With substations operational, next is verifying transmission lines. Transmission acts as the arterial system of the grid, flowing 115,000-volt power between substations. A single broken transmission pole can interrupt service for thousands of customers and require 12+ hours to replace. With transmission lines cleared, crews can focus on the distribution lines—the veins by which power flows to our neighborhoods. The PUD has more than 370 miles of overhead distribution line

countywide and nearly 9,000 poles. A broken distribution pole can take between 6 and 8 hours to repair. Repairs at the neighborhood level come next—and in sticking with the medical analogy, these are the skin-level fixes of the utility.

## *Outage Prioritization*

During non-emergency responses, crews prioritize restoration efforts by “feeders” (a utility term for a swath of the grid typically ranging from ~200-2,000+ customers). Feeders impacting essential services such as police and fire rescue, the emergency operations center, healthcare facilities, ferry system, and grocery stores are prioritized for restoration.

Feeder repairs can range from a simple branch removal to multiple pole replacements, with PUD dispatch prioritizing the largest outage areas.

Following a widespread event, such as the Nov 2022 storm that impacted 97% of PUD customers at its peak, mutual aid crews from partner utilities may be called in to assist with restoration efforts.

With feeders restored, crews can then turn their efforts to isolated outages—those often at the neighborhood or single home level.

## *Staying in the Know*

Throughout a large-scale outage, timestamped updates are provided via the PUD’s social feeds on Facebook and Nextdoor, as well as the PUD’s website, [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org).

## Emergency Essentials

Emergencies—from outages to earthquakes—can strike anytime. Having the right supplies on-hand can make all the difference.



Flashlight + Batteries



Water (3 gal per person, per day)



Non-Perishable Food



Whole-home First Aid Kit



Medications

(360) 385-5800 [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org) 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend, WA 98368

# Help Others Stay Warm & Dry

## Consider Giving to the Rainy Day Fund this Holiday Season

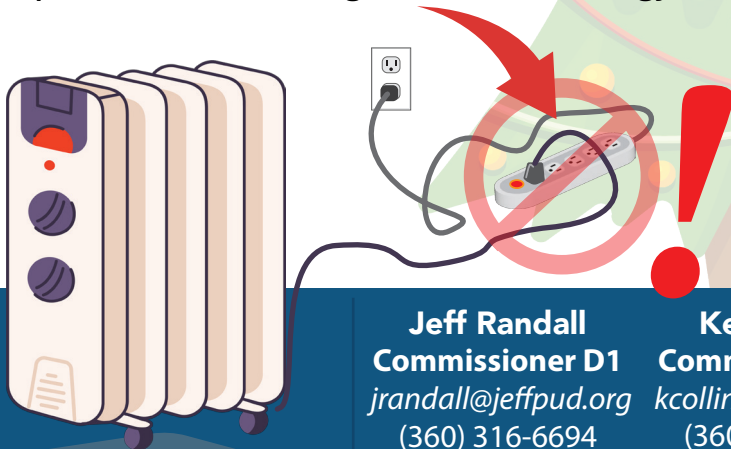
**Rounding-up on your bill makes a difference!**

The PUD proudly partners with St. Vincent de Paul & OlyCap to distribute Rainy Day funds to those in need.

[jeffpud.org/rainyday](http://jeffpud.org/rainyday)

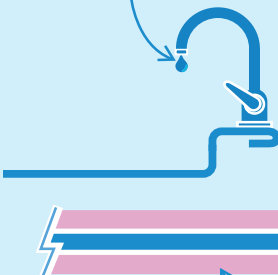
## 'tis the Season for Safety

- Own a real Christmas tree? Keep it watered and use LED lighting for decorations to reduce fire hazard.
- Use the correct size extension cords for your decorations. Don't use cords that are too thin or too long. Don't connect extension cords end-to-end.
- Do not overload outlets. Plug in only a few strands of lights at a time.
- Inspect light strands for frays, cracks, or breaks!
- Use a powerstrip for lighting. A powerstrip makes it easier to turn off multiple light strands and features a built-in circuit breaker.
- Turn off lights or use a timer for lighting when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Any space heater should be UL-tested and feature a tip-over safety switch.
- Never plug a space heater into a powerstrip. Space heaters use large amounts of energy



## Water Winterizing Tips

**Let a faucet drip**  
Allow air to circulate in cabinets and let the cold water faucet drip slightly. This relieves pressure and allows water to flow, rather than freeze.

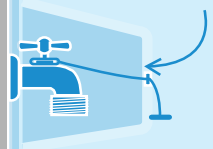


**Pipe Insulation in Crawl Space**  
Insulate pipes in unheated spaces such as the crawl space and garage. This can greatly reduce energy loss and save money on utility bills!

Learn more about ways you can save energy and money around the home! Visit: [jeffpud.org/save-energy](http://jeffpud.org/save-energy)

Colder weather means the potential for frozen water pipes. A few simple winterization steps both inside and outside the home can save a lot of cold weather blues.

**Install Foam Hose Faucet Covers**  
Foam faucet covers can help reduce freezing even in sub-zero temperatures.



**Anti-Siphon Outdoor Water Faucets**

Water backflow preventers can reduce pipe breakage near the exterior of the home.



**Disconnect & Drain Hoses**