

March 2016 Newsletter

## PUD to Receive FEMA Storm Reimbursement

**In December 2015, Columbia County experienced landslides, road closures, flooding, downed trees, and power outages due to heavy rains, flooding, and winds.**

On December 21, a windstorm caused the most significant outage in PUD history. About 80% of the PUD's 18,700 customers were affected. The total cost of the outage restoration was \$550,000.

A total of 18 counties in Oregon were affected by the severe weather, and reported about \$25 million in damages. Columbia County's portion was more than \$6 million.

On February 18, the state of Oregon received a Presidential disaster declaration for December 6-23, 2015. The declaration will allow the PUD and other public agencies across the state to recoup up to 75% of the costs to repair the damage. This will help the PUD keep cash reserves up and rates stable for customers.



## Low-Cost Heating System Upgrades for Income-Qualified Customers

**If you're living on a limited income, improving your heating system might be too expensive for your budget. Maybe we can help.**

A more comfortable home and lower energy bills are the goals of our low-income pilot project. The project provides a \$3,800 rebate for a new ductless heat pump system installations for qualifying homeowners. This rebate will cover a significant portion of the cost of the system.

To qualify, you must have an income level at or below the guidelines shown, and you must own your own manufactured home, which is heated with a forced-air electric furnace and meets other criteria. If more than 10 qualified applicants apply, the funds will be awarded on a lottery basis.

Enrollment for this pilot program will be open through April 22, 2016. To enroll, contact our Energy Experts at [experts@crpud.org](mailto:experts@crpud.org) or (503) 366-5470.

### Eligible Income Levels

*To participate in this program your household must meet state income guidelines:*

Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$23,540
2	\$31,860
3	\$40,180
4	\$48,500
5	\$56,820
6	\$64,140
7	\$73,460
8	\$81,780

*\*For more than 8 people, add \$8,320 per person*

## Should You Report Momentary Outages?

**Our electricity distribution system is protected by special devices called reclosers.** When faults occur, reclosers de-energize the lines to protect customers and equipment. Sometimes, faults are caused by falling tree limbs or other issues that resolve themselves. The reclosers will wait a few moments after de-energizing a line and then try to re-energize it. If the fault is cleared, the line will stay energized. If not, the reclosers will de-energize the line again. When reclosers operate, you'll see momentary interruptions in your power. If the power comes back on and stays on, you don't need to call us. The reclosers have done their job.



*The 2015 My Fair Lady Court. Front Row: Princess Carol Davis, Vernonia; Princess Sandy Davis, Clatskanie; Princess Amy Everman, Rainier; Princess Eleanor Hansen, Scappoose; Queen Dena Chesney, St. Helens*

## Nominate Someone Fabulous for the 2016 My Fair Lady Court

**Do you know a fabulous senior woman who volunteers in our community?**

If you do, please nominate her for the 2016 My Fair Lady Court. Nominations are due April 8, 2016.

The My Fair Lady pageant is held during the Columbia County Fair each year and honors senior women for outstanding community service. The PUD has sponsored the My Fair Lady Pageant since 1991 in conjunction with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Columbia River Fire and Rescue. Nomination forms are available at the RSVP office in St. Helens, or on our website at [www.crpud.net/myfairlady](http://www.crpud.net/myfairlady).



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Digging Soon?

**Want to avoid spending a day in the dark?** It's as simple as 8-1-1.

8-1-1 is the phone number to dial before you dig anywhere on public or private property. You should call before every digging job, even something as small as planting a tree or shrub. 8-1-1 is a free service that will prevent accidental injury to you or your family, damage to your property, and potential fines and repair costs.

Call 8-1-1 a few days prior to digging, and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing. A locator will be sent to mark the locations of buried lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below - and be able to dig safely.

Remember, always call 8-1-1 before you start any digging project! You'll avoid injury, expense, embarrassment, and an inconvenient day in the dark.

For more information, or to make an online request for utilities to be marked, call 8-1-1 before you dig, or visit [www.digsafelyoregon.com](http://www.digsafelyoregon.com).

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**COLUMBIA RIVER**  
**PUD**  
A COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY