

Skamania County PUD's

# News From the Wire

**April– May  
2014  
Edition**

Published Bi-Monthly

**PUD #1 of  
Skamania County**

**PO Box 500  
1492 Wind River  
Hwy.  
Carson WA 98610**

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**8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

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**Board of  
Commissioners**

**Meeting Schedule**

**9 a.m.**

Monday 04/21/14

Monday 05/05/14

Monday 05/19/14

Monday 06/02/14

Monday 06/16/14

**Winter is the season** when electric utilities keep an extra close watch on the weather forecast. December and January were business as usual but the first week of February and also of March brought storms that called for “all hands on deck”. Unfortunately you folks on the west end of the county (I suppose fortunately for the rest of you) were the ones who experienced extended outages during both of those events.

**Round one:** Round one started early in the morning of Feb. 6 while the wind was howling from the east and the temperature was well below freezing. A large fir tree blew down across Salmon Falls Road onto the main feeder distribution lines just outside the Cape Horn Substation. The damage put the entire west end of the county without power. Once repairs were made, the extended outage coupled with the cold weather made restoration challenging. By night fall, restoration was complete just in time for the heavy snowfall and school cancellations the following day.

**Round two:** The freezing rain started falling early in the morning of Mar. 2. Mid morning the PUD received the first outage call. The heavy ice accumulation broke limbs and fell trees on our power lines in numerous locations. Again only the west end of the county experienced outages. The line crew scrambled from location to location repairing the damage. The power lines were damaged in so many places it was difficult to find all of the problems. All day and through the night the line crew worked in treacherous conditions. Fortunately the temperature warmed late in the day and through the night halting the ice accumulation. Most customers had power restored by sunrise. The line crew was still making repairs throughout the following day.

**We work hard to keep the lights on** but sometimes Mother Nature works against us – and she has a big stick. We appreciate your patience and especially your preparedness to deal with these unexpected and unplanned weather related power outages. With spring upon us we can enjoy the daffodils, longer days and warmer temperatures and hope for “fair winds and Following seas.”



Brent Bischoff, General Manager

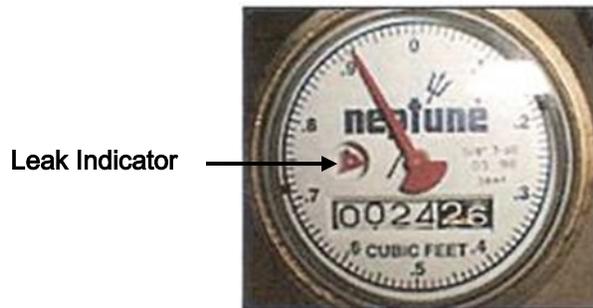
## How to check for a water leak

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water bills. Follow these easy steps to determine if you have a leak in a domestic or sprinkler irrigation system.

**Step 1.** Turn off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines and any appliance that uses water. If you have a sprinkler irrigation system, turn off the controller and manually shut off the two valves at the double check valve assembly (DCVA) to isolate the irrigation system.

**Step 2.** Locate your meter, which is typically at your property line close to the street. If you can't find it contact your water provider and they can help you locate it.

- Your meter may have a triangular red disc that is commonly called a "leak indicator." If it is spinning, you have a leak.
- If there is no indicator and the actual dial hand is moving, water is running somewhere in your system and you have a leak. If the hand is not moving, note the position of the hand and wait 30 minutes. Check the meter again, if it has moved, you have a slow leak.



**The Skamania PUD meter readings are in cubic feet (1 cu ft = 7.48 gal). The register shown here indicates that 2,426.92 cubic feet of water has passed through this meter since being installed.**

**Step 3.** If Step 2 indicates you have a leak, the next step is to determine if the leak is inside or outside of your house. Locate and turn off the main shut-off valve to your house. The valve is usually located in the ground in a PVC pipe or plastic box close to the house foundation. If the water meter dial (or the red triangle) continues to move, you may have a leak between your house and the water meter. If the needle has not moved, you may have a leak within your house. Consider contacting a plumber to check the problem.

**Next newsletter – Finding leaks inside your home.**

### ***News From the Wire***

is an informational newsletter published by  
*Skamania County PUD* for our customers.  
Reader comments are welcome.

#### **PUD Commissioners:**

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District 2..... Curt Esch, Vice President  
509-427-8591  
District 1..... Dennis Gale, Secretary  
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