



August 2022

Newsletter

Wildfire Mitigation Efforts Update

The OCEC Operations Department has moved into summer wildfire season system monitoring. This means that the crew has disabled the automatic reclosing on the field recloser circuit breakers and we are now operating in our Yellow Operations Status.

These reclosers will be disabled until the end of fire season. When a red-flag warning is issued for our area, OCEC will disable the reclosers at the substations until the warning is lifted.

Disabling reclosers, either in elevated fire risk or red-flag conditions, has the effect of both lengthening the duration and increasing the number of outages while reducing the possibility of “sparks” from contacts to the line. A recloser is an automatic high-voltage electric switch that operates much like a circuit breaker in your home. When the reclosers are set on “non-reclose” the breaker will operate/open and the line will be de-energized until OCEC crews can manually inspect the line for problems. Once the line is manually inspected and is confirmed all-clear, the line will be re-energized. This will possibly create longer, more frequent outages in these areas.

Taking these pro-active fire safety steps may cause more frequent and longer outages but we hope that our members will understand the benefits of reduced risk outweigh the increase in possible outages.

For more information please review our full Wildfire Mitigation Plan at www.ocec.coop.

Electric Welcomes New Employee

Okanogan County Electric is thrilled to welcome new Member Service Representative Tiffany Routien. Tiffany has lived and worked in the Methow Valley for the past 11 years. Tiffany comes to us with a wealth of customer service knowledge and experience and is excited to join our team and learn about the utility world. Tiffany and her husband live in Twisp with their three children.



How can you help OCEC?

We all know that with our hot dry summers comes the chance of wildfires. Many of you are working to “Firewise” your property and be better prepared for the possibility of wildfires. One more action you can take will help OCEC crews locate your transformer in the event of an emergency.

Clearing a path to and around your transformer will allow easier access to the structure and if fire was to come through it would reduce the fuels burning up to and damaging the structure. A small amount of clearing can make a big difference.



If you are unable to safely clear around your transformer or have questions you can send photos to info@ocec.coop, this email is checked during business hours.

Do not dig near power poles and do not clear tree limbs that are touching power lines, report them to OCEC and we will have them safely removed.

Our mailing address is: PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA. 98862
Hours of operation: Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
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