

# THE WIRE

OCTOBER 2023 / [SNOPUD.COM](http://SNOPUD.COM)

## Outages Happen

We pride ourselves on operating an extremely reliable grid. But outages do occur, especially during storm season. Here's what caused outages last year (by percentage):

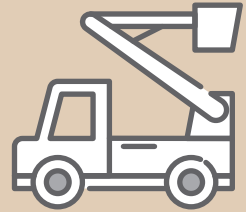
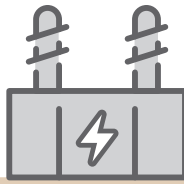


### Trees (42%)

Outages occur when trees or limbs fall into power lines. We trim trees all year to minimize these issues.

### Equipment failure (19%)

The grid is complex and mechanical elements can fail for a variety of reasons, including age or stress.



### Planned (12%)

Some outages are necessary to allow for system upgrades and maintenance.

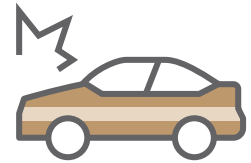
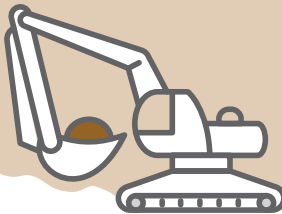


### Bird or Animal (12%)

Squirrels, birds and other creatures can cause equipment to fail. Devices are installed that reduce risk of contact.

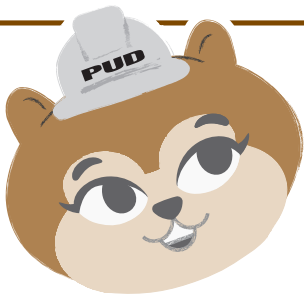
### Weather, human caused & other (10%)

Lightning and snow can cause outages as can human error such as digging without calling 8-1-1.



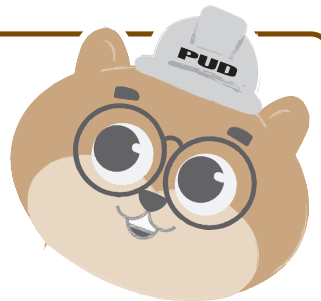
### Motor vehicle (4%)

System damage can occur when vehicles collide with power poles or construction equipment contacts wires.



## Zip & Zap Say Be Safe Around Electricity!

Electricity is so vital to our comfort and well-being that it's easy to forget it can be dangerous. **Please remember:**



- ✦ Never approach downed power lines! Stay at least 30 feet away and make sure to call 9-1-1 and the PUD if you come across downed power lines.
- ✦ Never fly kites near power lines.
- ✦ Never decorate or climb on green padmount transformer cabinets or try to open them.
- ✦ Always keep fingers and other objects away from electrical outlets.



PUD Power Talks at noon on Thursday, November 2 will be brimming with outage preparedness tips! Power Talks are free on Microsoft Teams. To register, visit [snopud.com/power talks](http://snopud.com/power talks).

## Mitch Van Wegen, Connecting Customers



Mitch is a crucial part of our Connect Up program. In his role as Meter Deployment Superintendent, Mitch is overseeing the team that will safely exchange nearly 350,000 electric meters. His duties include helping to train the more than 30 PUD Meter Deployment Technicians.

***"It's an exciting time for Connect Up as we begin deployment," said Mitch. "A team of PUD employees have been planning and building Connect Up for years to get us to this point and now it's our turn to hit the ground running."***

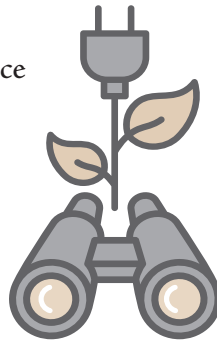
Learn more about Mitch at [snopud.com/spotlight](https://snopud.com/spotlight).

### Exchanging Your Meter

Over the next three years, our Connect Up teams will be exchanging all electric and water meters in Snohomish County and Camano Island. PUD employees exchanging meters will be wearing PUD and Connect Up-branded clothing and will have PUD badges visible. For more information, visit [snopud.com/connectup](https://snopud.com/connectup).

## Learn How the PUD is Planning for the Future

Our planners are putting the finishing touches on our 2023 Integrated Resource Plan, our long-term strategic document that will inform how we provide power to our customers in the future. We are hosting an open house to share where we are in the process and **we'd love to hear from you!** Join us!



### Integrated Resource Plan Open House

Thursday, Nov. 2, 5 pm

Arlington Microgrid and Clean Energy Center: 17601 59th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223

## Save on Heating this Winter

Now is the perfect time to take steps to save money on heating. Here are simple tips to be more energy efficient this winter:

- Replace your furnace filters: Clogged filters can make your heating equipment work harder.
- Set your thermostat at 68 and 55: We recommend setting your thermostat at 68 degrees when you're home and awake and 55 when away or asleep.

Check out weatherization and heating rebates at [snopud.com/connect2save](https://snopud.com/connect2save).



## Make Your Home as Cozy as a Big Hug

Your PUD offers **instant rebates of up to \$2,500 on energy-efficient heat pumps** for electrically heated homes.

Learn more at [snopud.com/heating](https://snopud.com/heating).

