

Why Do the Lights Blink?

Klickitat PUD staff often is asked why consumers' lights blink.

Blinking lights usually are the result of momentary outages that occur from some type of disturbance on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile hitting a power pole, or an animal or tree branch coming in contact with an energized power line.

Because today's microprocessors are so sensitive, brief outages are more noticeable than in the past. When the lights blink, it actually may indicate the PUD's equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment.

Klickitat PUD's distribution system includes special devices called reclosers that operate much like a switch or a self-resetting circuit breaker. Whenever there is a short circuit on the line, the recloser interrupts the flow of electricity. If the short circuit is temporary, which often is the case, the recloser allows power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service—meaning your lights blink.

Without this device, every short circuit—temporary or

otherwise—would shut off the power until Klickitat PUD could send a lineman to restore service.

Reclosers usually operate automatically three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage, which protects the lines from damage.

A word of caution: If you have lights blinking on a continuous basis, it may indicate a problem. Contact the PUD. While we strive to deliver steady, consistent and high-quality power, sometimes circumstances beyond our control cause power disturbances.

To protect your valuable appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, we recommend protective power-quality devices, such as surge protectors or whole-house surge protection.

An estimated 80% of power-quality problems originate inside the home. Culprits include motors starting or shutting down, improper electrical wiring and grounding, and overloaded circuits.

If you experience continuous blinks or improper power quality, check the electrical equipment and wiring in your house first, but feel free to call us. We are always here and happy to help you. ■



Honesty | Accountability | Customer Focused

PAST DUE BALANCES REQUIRE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Disconnects, late fees and penalties will resume August 1st. To avoid these actions, contact Klickitat PUD immediately to make an arrangement.

If you are impacted by COVID-19, ask us about Operation Warm Heart - a neighbors helping neighbors program.



PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS: Contact customer service by phone or via SmartHub to request. **Goldendale (509) 773-5891 | (800) 548-8357; White Salmon (509) 493-2255 | (800) 548-8358**



SMARTHUB: Make payment, set up auto pay, submit meter reads, request payment arrangement, and submit inquiries.



PAY-BY-PHONE: Make payment, set up auto pay, and submit meter reads. **Call (888) 255-5303.**



SMALL BUSINESS DISCOUNT: Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 can receive a discount - up to \$600. For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://www.klickitatcounty.org/1193/Covid-19>