

Pole Top Rescue and Recertification

By Lori K. Froeblich

It started bright and early July 17 with the monthly safety meeting at the White Salmon pole yard.

Once a year, all of the line crew members attend a recertification of a mock industrial accident.

Each lineman was required to climb the pole and rescue “Joe,” everyone’s favorite rescue dummy, who is secured at the top of the pole representing a lineman who has been injured on the job.

Once a lineman reached the top of the pole, he secured Joe and lowered him to a second man on the ground, who stabilized Joe and began first aid/CPR.

Klickitat PUD’s tree crew attends the recertification practice, too, simulating the same scenario, except Joe replicates an injured co-worker secured in a tree.

The entire crew participated in multiple rescues, allowing each tree trimmer a turn at climbing and receiving Joe, once he was safely lowered to the ground.

Instead of the normal descent from a pole, the tree trimmers used their rappelling skills down the tree for a quick dismount.

The linemen, groundmen, meter men, tree trimmers, warehousemen, and college/summer students also participated in operating the boom truck and using the controls to extend the bucket truck, which is important in case any employee is in a situation calling for their assistance in an emergency.

Klickitat PUD requires this annual training for its employees so this important knowledge is current. It also enables them to be ready for any situation that could occur while they are on duty, and allows them to better serve the public.

Bernie Predeek and Rob Rising were selected to represent Klickitat PUD for the 2009 annual Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Conference in Spokane.



During the competition, each team will be scored on the time it takes to complete the rescue, the skill at which CPR is performed and having the correct amount of breaths to compressions, communication, climbing techniques, the handling of the victim on the pole and the ground, checking of vital signs on the pole and the ground, and rigging for lowering the victim to the ground.

Good luck to Rob and Bernie in next year’s state competition! ■



Rob Rising and Bernie Predeek