

Safety Samaritan Award Winners

Klickitat PUD proudly recognizes the dedication of its employees through the Safety Samaritan Award. The award was created in 2018 to honor those who exemplify exceptional commitment to safety on and off the job.

This award not only celebrates adherence to safety protocols but also underscores the vital role employees play in ensuring the well-being of their colleagues and the community.

Recently, several employees were honored for their remarkable acts of heroism that embody the spirit of the Safety Samaritan program.

Matt Olson

Matt Olson was on vacation in Ocean Park when he witnessed a deer versus car accident that ended with the car upside-down. Matt was the first on scene, providing aid and comfort to the driver while his wife, Ashley, called for emergency responders. Thanks to their efforts and the help of other good Samaritans, the driver was safely freed from her overturned vehicle.

John Starr

John Starr acted quickly when he discovered a flaming travel trailer while he was returning to town. John had poor cell service, so he alerted the resident of a nearby home—who was unaware of the fire—and guided her to call 911. He attempted to manage the situation until ammunition within the trailer started going off. John showed incredible courage in the face of danger.

Nathaniel Hill

Nathaniel Hill was dispatched to a fire at a utility pole at the Bickleton Highway



ABOVE: John Starr is presented with KPUD's Safety Samaritan Award for reacting to a flaming travel trailer. **RIGHT:** Nathaniel Hill received the Safety Samaritan Award for his quick action when he was first on scene at a fire.

intersection. Arriving as the closest responder, he used his backpack water can to extinguish spot fires, successfully managing the situation until Rural 7 arrived. His quick actions prevented further damage to the utility pole and surrounding property.

These incidents reflect Klickitat PUD's commitment to a safety-first culture, emphasizing safety is a shared responsibility. As we celebrate the heroic efforts of Matt, John and Nathaniel, we look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and safety within our community.

Thank you to all Klickitat PUD employees for your hard work and dedication. ■

