

# Coastlines

2019/4



*These sea lions on a dock in Newport aren't shy about making their voices heard. We hope you'll also be bold—by asking us to do a free load check if you need one. See story below.*

*Photo: ©Ken Gagne*

## Please Let Us Know Before You Grow – or Plug In Hungry Equipment!

**Many folks take electricity for granted—plug something in, turn it on, and it works...right?**

But if that something requires a hefty amount of electricity, a transformer could get overloaded. “It’s the bigger items—hot tubs, welding equipment, infinity pools, or large equipment that



*Distribution Technician Brandy checks out an overloaded transformer she will soon have replaced by a line crew. Power distribution transformers transform power from higher voltages used for distributing electricity over distances, to voltages suited to residential, commercial, or industrial uses.*

add up. Say, a compressor, and then six months later, an overhead crane, slowly and surely electricity requirements for items like these could overload the nearest transformer,” explains Robin, one of Central Lincoln’s GIS Lead Technicians. “And when a transformer is overloaded, power will go out, not only for the customer who has overloaded that transformer, but potentially for the customer’s neighbors. Replacement can take hours, and if the outage happens at night, everyone in the surrounding area could be without light—or heat—for some time.

Fortunately, preventing such an event is simple: “Email us at [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org), or call us at 877-265-3211 during business hours and press “4,” adds Brandy, a Distribution Engineering Technician. “We will come out and do a load check at no charge. It may take us a week or so, depending how busy we are, but we’re happy to do it.”

Notifying us before plugging in some hefty devices or equipment applies to both residential and commercial customers. Now that the recreational use of marijuana is legal, we’ve seen an uptick in “grow” operations, and indoor grow lights can use a great



deal of electricity. It doesn’t matter to us what’s growing under those lights. What matters is that customers let us know they will be using significantly more electricity, so we can make sure the transformers and lines serving that location have the right capacity to meet every customer’s needs in the area.

And there’s another excellent reason to let us know before you grow, or plug in more equipment: “If customers don’t check with us first, they could be charged for the costs of replacing an overloaded transformer, including equipment fees and crew time, to change out that equipment,” Brandy says. “And if it happens at night, the cost will be even higher,” adds Robin. “Line crews called out after hours must be paid overtime.”

**Help us protect our transformers, prevent outages, and ruined equipment, and avoid what could be a hefty bill for a replacement transformer. If you’re planning to use significantly more electricity, please email us or call us.** Then you’ll know if your transformer is ready to serve your growing needs, and you’ll avoid glares from your neighbors by preventing an outage.

# We're Proud to Help Our Neighbors After Massive Snowstorm



April is National Thank A Lineman month, and we'd like to thank our 25 linemen, tree trimmers, and other personnel who helped out in Douglas and Lane counties last month after a sudden intense snowstorm knocked out power to thousands, causing millions of dollars of damage to lines, transformers, and substations. Nature largely spared our service area during this disaster, so when anxious utilities called us for emergency help, we were glad to be able to postpone some of our work to send several crews under "mutual aid" agreements already in place in case of events like this one.

Our Journeyman Lineman Isaac reports: Lane Electric is a small co-op serving communities outside of Eugene. After that substantial snowfall, they had over 9,000 of their 13,000 meters off. In the areas we helped, there was anywhere from 20" to 4' of snow. Lines were down everywhere. Conditions were less than ideal, but we got to it and started putting wire up. And continued to put wire up for the next 12 days. I'm sure we all missed our families and home a little bit, but I was proud to represent Central Lincoln and I know that the customers of Lane Electric, as well as the utility, were extremely grateful to have our help.

Our Operations Supervisor Greg, also a Journeyman Lineman based in Reedsport writes, "Our neighboring utility, Douglas Electric, was devastated by the early morning snow here on the Coast Range. They said they sure could use our help with the coast end of their system. Four days later, our guys had every customer of theirs from their Reedsport delivery point back in power, and we stayed at it for more than two weeks. We lit up customers in Scottsburg who hadn't had electricity in 16 days. I cannot say enough about how proud I am of our crews. I haven't been everywhere, but have seen a storm or two and never have I witnessed anything like this. Our guys kept their calm and just kept on 'eating that elephant' —the damage



*A line of Lane Electric distribution poles needing power lines re-strung after the storm.*



*Journeyman Lineman Isaac balances on lineman's gaffs dug into a tilted pole while restoring power to Lane Electric customers. Climbing utility poles requires significant physical strength.*

to lines, poles, and transformers was incredible. This was a good test for us, and an opportunity to hone our skills to be better prepared for the 'what if's?' One thing that I don't have to wonder about is the resolve of our crews. It is an honor to be a small part of such an amazing restoration effort and I believe we can count ourselves very lucky to have line and tree crews as dedicated and stubborn as they are. I know when this happens here they will all be here until the last meter comes back on.

"It was a long and hard-fought battle," says General Manager Randy Grove. "I couldn't be prouder of our people!"

Thank you, Isaac, Greg, and all of our workers who go out into dark, cold and often wet conditions to restore power whenever and wherever needed. We appreciate you!

**Pay By Phone:** 1-844-239-0076  
**Outage Line:** 1-866-484-3783  
**Energy Efficiency Programs:** 1-888-883-9879

**Call us** toll free at 1-877-265-3211.  
*Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport or Reedsport.*

**Office Hours:** Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Florence: 966 Highway 101  
Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway  
Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Reedsport is closed 12-1 p.m.)

**Website:** [clpud.org](http://clpud.org)  
**Email:** [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org)

Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

 [www.twitter.com/CLPUD](https://www.twitter.com/CLPUD)

 [Central Lincoln PUD](#)



*Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.*