



Every year, Idaho Power workers clear plants away from poles in wildland areas. Their work protects power lines from fire, helping Idaho Power deliver safe, reliable, affordable energy.

In areas of high fire risk, Idaho Power wraps some wood poles with fire-resistant mesh to protect them from wildfire.



# Idaho Power Prepares for Wildfire Season

**Reliability is one of Idaho Power's most important missions. We work hard every day to ensure your home, farm or business has as much energy as you need — when you need it.**

As we've seen in other states, wildfires can devastate families, businesses and the environment. They can also cause power outages.

"We've been fortunate our service area and equipment hasn't been severely impacted in recent years, but we have to stay vigilant," said Jon Axtman, Idaho Power's Transmission and Distribution Engineering and Reliability Senior Manager. "This state is no stranger to wildfires, so it's imperative we take steps now to protect our customers and our grid."

Idaho Power invests in upgrades to protect the grid from wildfires and reduce the risk of fires starting. We're replacing poles, conductors and switches. We're double-checking our equipment settings or replacing components that are damaged. In some places, we wrap wood poles with a fire-resistant mesh to enhance resiliency during a fire.

In areas where wildfire risk is highest, we're adding Spark Prevention Units (SPU)

and fire-safe fuses. This new technology provides around-the-clock protection of equipment on Idaho Power's system. For example, if lightning causes an abnormal increase in voltage, the SPUs protect other equipment on the line from failing and producing sparks.

"This new equipment is just one more way of protecting our grid and the natural world from wildfire," Axtman said.

Idaho Power's commitment to safety and reliability isn't new. For decades, the company has taken proactive measures against fire. One of the most important is what we call "vegetation management." That means we prune trees and other plants away from our lines or treat the ground around wood poles to keep plants — future fuel — from growing. Branches that touch power lines can cause outages or even start fires. Idaho Power recently increased the frequency of our pruning cycle. We've also increased inspections and vegetation clearing in high-risk wildfire zones.

Idaho Power conducts daily weather forecasts throughout the summer that factor in wildfire risk. This helps our operators work safely and make better decisions on where to allocate crews, trucks, tools and other resources during wildfire season.

Ultimately, we know wildfires are a fact of life in the West. That's why Idaho Power is developing plans to proactively respond when wildfires do occur. We work with communities in our service area to notify customers in emergency situations and have equipment and employees ready to respond quickly.

"We've all seen how disruptive wildfire can be when it causes or leads to an outage," Axtman said. "The steps we're taking will help prevent outages and keep our homes and businesses safe and connected."

To learn more about how you can prepare for summer outages and stay up to date when outages occur, read the back page of this newsletter.





# NOW is the Time to be Wildfire Ready

Every summer, wildfires threaten our forests, farms, homes and businesses. They can also cause power outages. In extreme fire conditions, these outages could last hours or even days, especially if a public safety power shutoff (PSPS) is necessary.

A PSPS is when a utility like Idaho Power proactively turns off power to certain areas where wildfire risk is extreme due to weather conditions. The outage is an effort to protect our customers, employees, equipment and communities from wildfire. As fire season approaches, we'll contact customers in PSPS potential zones to ensure they know what to expect.

## Prepare now so you're ready when it counts

Spending a few minutes to prepare for emergencies goes a long way toward ensuring your safety if they occur. Here are some tips to help:

### Stay Informed

- Update your contact information at [idahopower.com/contactupdate](https://idahopower.com/contactupdate).
- Sign up for outage alerts at [idahopower.com/alerts](https://idahopower.com/alerts).
- Sign up for emergency alerts from local law enforcement, fire departments and your county.
- If an outage occurs, you can visit [idahopower.com/outage](https://idahopower.com/outage) for the latest updates.

## Make a plan for your unique needs

- Prepare for medical needs, such as refrigerated medicine or electrically powered medical equipment. This could mean finding a place you can go during an outage or buying a backup generator.
- Find a way to feed and water pets or livestock in case well pumps don't have power.
- Ensure you know how to open and close electric garage doors and security gates when the power is out.

## Build a summer outage kit

- Bottled water (five gallons per person)
- Matches
- Blankets
- Non-perishable food (canned food, crackers, etc.) and a non-electric can opener
- Baby food or formula and diapers
- Pet food
- First-aid kit and medications
- Battery- or solar-powered radio, fans, lights and chargers for your devices
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- A block of ice in the freezer



## From the Energy Efficient Kitchen

### Slow Cooker Salsa Chicken

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts | 1 cup chopped tomato |
| 1 ½ cups diced celery                    | 1 tbsp chili powder  |
| 1 cup shredded carrots                   | 1 ½ tsp cumin        |
| 1 cup chunky salsa                       | 1 tsp oregano        |

Place celery and carrots in the bottom of a slow cooker. In a small bowl combine chili powder, oregano and cumin; sprinkle half of spice mixture over one side of the chicken breasts. Add chicken to the slow cooker, spice side-down. Sprinkle remaining spice mixture over chicken. Combine salsa and tomatoes and pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours. Chicken breasts can be served whole or shredded. Makes eight servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

May 2022  
Main Course



## Can We Reach You During an Outage?

We're proud to keep your lights on 99.9% of the time. But if the power does go out, make sure we can reach you to provide important updates and information.

### Update Your Contact Information

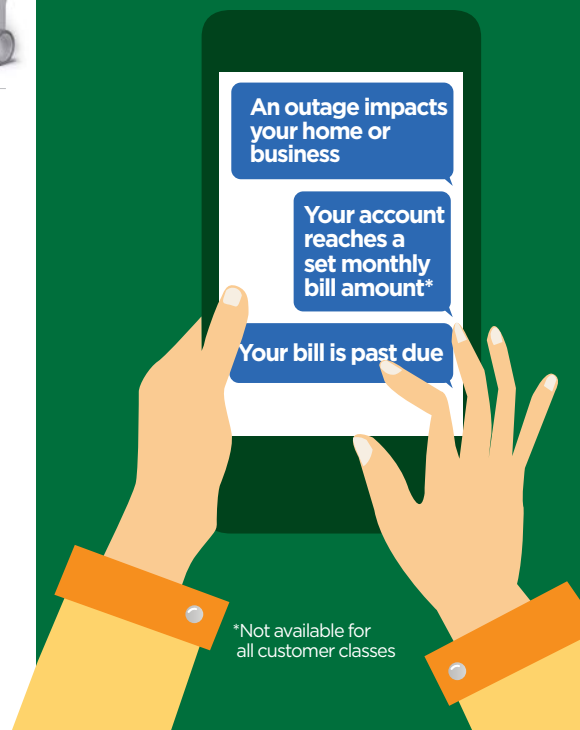
If you already have a My Account profile, go to [idahopower.com/contactupdate](https://idahopower.com/contactupdate) and update or confirm your phone number and email address.

Don't have My Account yet? Grab your Idaho Power account number and head to [idahopower.com/myaccount](https://idahopower.com/myaccount) to set up an online profile. We'll walk you through a few easy steps to get you started.

You can also update your contact information in the space provided on the bottom of your bill before you send it in or call us at 1-800-488-6151.

### Sign Up for Outage Alerts

Visit [idahopower.com/alerts](https://idahopower.com/alerts) to sign up for alerts any time an outage impacts your home or business. While you're there, you can also sign up for alerts when your bill is past due or reaches a set monthly amount.



\*Not available for all customer classes