



Trimming Trees and Watching Weather: How Wildfire Prevention Keeps You Safe

Safety is the cornerstone of everything we do at Idaho Power, including our year-round efforts to prevent wildfires. Every step we take is aimed at protecting you, your home, and your community while keeping your power as reliable as possible.

The safety of our grid starts when we build our electrical system — powerlines, substations, power plants, and more — to meet or exceed industry safety and reliability standards. We add special equipment in certain places where wildfire risk is higher, including spark prevention units and fire-resistant mesh wrapping that protects wood poles if a fire burns through our lines. We're also upgrading equipment, paying special attention to areas where wildfires are more likely.

We've also incorporated the latest technology in equipment inspections, including infrared imaging and drones or helicopters to supplement our employees' ground patrols. Our crews prune trees away from our powerlines to reduce the chance of sparks if branches or other objects touch the wires.

We're installing dozens of weather stations across our service area so we can pinpoint weather conditions in real time.

"These stations give us detail we couldn't get before," Idaho Power Atmospheric Science Supervisor Derek Blestrud said. "Instead of telling us what's happening in, say, a 100-square-mile area, we know weather details down to a few feet around the station. That's a big deal because our service area has a lot of topographical variation — forests, mountains, grassy desert areas, and all the interfaces between them."

We're also partnering with stakeholders across the West to install cameras that can help firefighters detect fire faster than ever. When weather conditions increase the risk of wildfire, Idaho Power enacts "enhanced protection settings" on our powerlines. These settings stop the lines from automatically re-energizing if a fault — like a tree branch touching a wire — causes an outage. The company can also make the lines trip more quickly. While sensitivity settings can prevent wildfires, they might lead to longer, more frequent outages. Visit idahopower.com/wildfire for tips like how to build a summer outage kit.

When wildfire conditions reach extreme levels, we might turn to the last wildfire-prevention tool at our disposal: a Public

Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). A PSPS is when a utility temporarily turns off power in a certain area where wildfire risk is high due to extreme weather. It is an effort to prevent sparks that could start a wildfire if high wind blows debris into our lines or causes other damage.

Idaho Power would only use a PSPS as a last resort for the safety of our communities. Besides working to make these outages less likely, we've also reduced the impact of these potential outages by installing segmentation devices. These devices allow us to de-energize a smaller section of a powerline instead of the whole line.

In 2024, segmentation upgrades removed 70,000 customers from areas where PSPS is more likely.

Visit idahopower.com/wildfire to learn more.



Outage Prep, Wildfire Events Coming Soon



Idaho Power is hosting a series of meetings this spring to help customers prepare for summer outages and learn about the steps we're taking to prevent wildfires.

We hope you'll join us to hear our experts talk about topics like building an outage kit, equipment we're using to prevent fires while keeping your lights on, and PSPS.

Most meetings are scheduled for May. Some will be in-person open house events, often co-hosted with local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, or nonprofits.

We'll hold several online meetings, too. Each one is geared to a specific audience. For example, we'll have one online meeting for the Treasure Valley, one for the Magic Valley, and another for eastern Idaho. Don't worry if you miss your area's meeting. We'll put a recording of it on our website, or you can join one of the other meetings.

We will also be holding a virtual meeting aimed at helping customers with disabilities or mobility limitations prepare for outages.

Visit idahopower.com/wildfire for meeting times, locations, and ways to participate.

Did You Know?

We work hard to keep prices as low as possible, and a new Edison Electric Institute study shows the results: **Idaho Power's residential and small business prices rank among the top 10 lowest nationwide compared to 165 investor-owned utilities.**

Weather Stations Sharpen Wildfire Forecasts

Idaho Power works on many fronts to prevent wildfires and protect our communities. We trim trees, inspect our lines, install spark-prevention devices, and repair and replace equipment.

One of our best tools for reducing wildfire risk is a precise understanding of the conditions that influence wildfire behavior. That's why Idaho Power is investing in weather stations to pinpoint temperature, wind speed, and other weather variables at dozens of locations across our service area. These weather stations help the company make informed decisions to reduce wildfire risk.

Today, we have more than 100 weather stations across our service area. We're planning to install another 60 this year. We place each station strategically, mostly in or near areas where broader weather patterns, fuels, residential

development, and topography increase the likelihood of a wildfire or the damage a fire might cause.

Most stations are mounted on Idaho Power-owned poles. During wildfire season, the company's meteorologists monitor data they provide to inform decisions like whether to call a PSPS.

"When you make a decision as weighty as whether to turn off your customers' power to prevent a wildfire, you want the most trustworthy data available," Idaho Power Wildfire Mitigation Director Jon Axtman said. "Our weather stations give us that."

Idaho Power makes data from the weather stations available to the public. Anyone with an internet connection can check out any weather station in the company's service area at <https://bit.ly/4lQcGrX>.

From the Electric Kitchen Frosty Fruit Salad

- 1 orange, peeled and cubed
- 2/3 cup diced pineapple
- 1/2 cup Royal Anne cherries, pitted and halved
- 1 banana, cubed
- 2 canned pear halves, diced
- 1/4 cup sliced maraschino cherries
- 1/4 cup blanched almonds, chopped
- 1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup cream, whipped

Combine fruits and nuts. Whip the cream cheese until soft and blend with mayonnaise. Add to the fruit mixture and blend well. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into lightly oiled molds. Place in freezer until frozen. Remove from molds and wrap for freezer storage. Serves 8.



May 2026
Salad