

How power is delivered underground

Chelan County PUD uses two systems to deliver electricity to customer-owners:

- **OVERHEAD:** By poles and overhead electrical wire
- **UNDERGROUND:** By running electrical wire through buried pipes or “conduit”

About one-half of the PUD’s electric distribution system runs underground. **Your area in downtown Leavenworth receives its power through an underground system.** Because space is limited in downtown Leavenworth, not all distribution transformers are able to be placed above ground on a concrete pad as is typical in other areas of the PUD’s electrical system. Many distribution transformers are placed in underground vaults, which is unique to the City of Leavenworth. Placing this equipment in underground vaults can lead to problems if the vaults are not treated properly.

What to keep in mind:

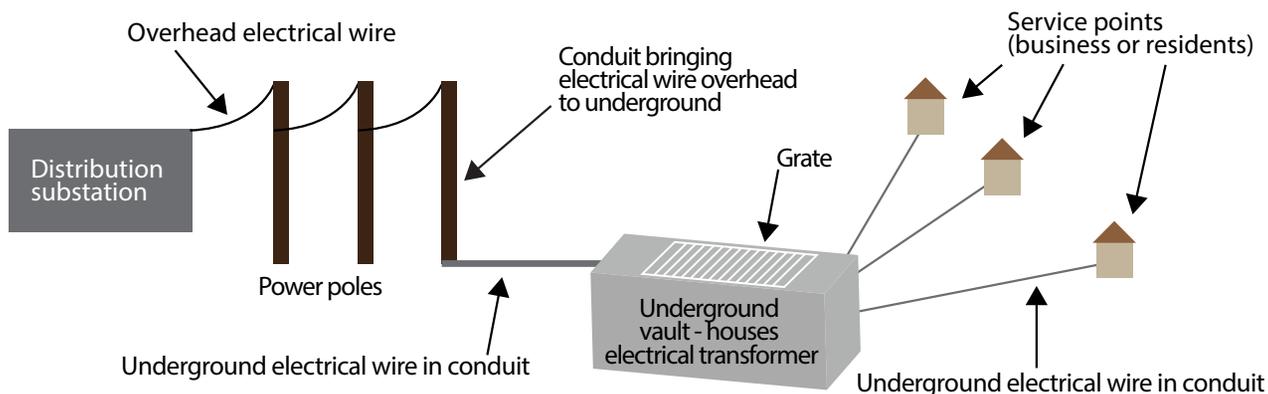
These vaults are not designed to withstand contaminants such as cooking oil, grease, food particles, garbage, etc.

When contaminants such as waste cooking oil are dumped into the vaults, heat becomes trapped under the oil, not allowing the equipment to cool. This causes equipment in the vault to burn or melt and can cause fire, damage to the system or power outages.

Que se debe de tomar en cuenta:

Estas bóvedas de agua no están diseñadas para resistir contaminantes como aceite para cocinar, grasa, comida, o basura. Cuando contaminantes como los restos de aceite para cocinar son vaciados a las bóvedas, el calor se atrapa debajo del aceite y no permite que el equipo se enfríe. Esto causa que el equipo en las bóvedas se queme o derrita, causando incendios, daño al sistema o cortes de energía.

Here’s how the system works in areas where transformers are placed in a vault:



Frequently asked questions:

What does the underground vault look like?

An underground vault houses electrical transformers and other equipment. The vault lid can look very similar to a storm drain. **It is illegal to dump grease or other items down the storm drain. What goes down the drain goes directly into the Wenatchee River.**



Why is the lid vented?

The vaults are vented with a grate on top to provide circulation to cool the transformers and other equipment inside.

What happens when water gets inside?

Protection from weather and other natural environmental conditions such as rain and melting snow is designed into the vaults, transformers and other equipment. When water gets inside, it is able to circulate to keep the equipment cool and then evaporates through the vented lid.

Hello

Chelan County PUD customers expect safe, reliable electric service and our goal is to ensure we deliver that to you. Helping you understand how the electrical system in your area works will help us provide reliable service and preserve the life of the system. This information explains the underground power system in downtown Leavenworth with details on underground transformer vaults. In recent months, downtown customers have experienced power outages due to mistreatment of these vaults. We hope to minimize unplanned outages in the future by providing you with more information about the electrical system in your area.

The City of Leavenworth supports the effort by Chelan County PUD to address the issue of proper treatment of underground vaults.

Electrical Safety

- Outage information is available 24/7 by calling (877) PUD-8123
- Follow us on Twitter @ChelanPUD for information about large-impact outages
- Call Before You Dig – 811 (or 1-800-424-5555)

In Your Neighborhood

Information about PUD projects around Chelan County can be found at www.chelanpud.org/in-your-neighborhood.



CHELAN COUNTY
www.chelanpud.org



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