

RE: [EXTERNAL]:Re: DNRC Meeting

Dan Rogers <DanR@meccoop.com>

Fri 5/17/2024 8:06 AM

To: Bill Cory <bilcory@gmail.com>

Bill,

MEC has developed an Escalating Conditions Matrix which we use to make operational decisions during periods of elevated fire danger. During normal conditions, it is business as usual, meaning that all our Oil Circulating Reclosers and Electronic Reclosers will be in their normal configuration. In the normal configuration, the recloser will reset itself 3 times before opening the circuit permanently. Once the recloser opens, it requires a lineman to patrol the line to find the source of the fault, remove the issue and manually set the recloser back to normal operation. These three operations give the object or animal time to fall away from the powerline allowing the power to restore itself and possibly save a truck roll and a longer outage. During elevated fire danger or when DNRC declares that we are in Stage 1 fire restrictions, we will modify work practices, however recloser settings will remain under normal configuration with the exception of those located in the high fire hazard areas of our system – which may be placed on one-shot. Keep in mind, parts of our system may be in stage 1 while others are not. Once DNRC escalates the fire danger to Stage 2, reclosers will be placed on one-shot which means that when something touches the line and creates a fault, the devices will not try to reset themselves. Once off, the line downstream of the recloser is patrolled to verify there is nothing in contact with the line before the recloser is closed in and the line is reenergized. During Stage 3 fire restrictions, the reclosers are still on one-shot and full patrols are required before reenergizing the line. The main change is that all work off road stops unless it is an emergency. Finally, if the National Weather Service declares a Red Flag Day, we will exercise additional caution around reenergizing lines where the power has been knocked out as long as the Red Flag conditions are still present. As an example, during a red flag event, if we have trees and limbs blowing down, we would not want to reenergize a line while that activity is going on because it is likely the power could get knocked out shortly after, but more importantly, if we reenergize while trees and limbs are flying around in conditions where a fire start is almost guaranteed, we could be create more harm than good by reenergizing since these tree-line contacts often create an ignition source not present when the power is off.

Hopefully that help provide more context on system operations during fire season. Please let me know if you have any questions.



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From: Bill Cory <bilcory@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 11, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Dan Rogers <DanR@meccoop.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]:Re: DNRC Meeting

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Dan, I'd like to explain what will happen during a Red Flag fire danger at our Home Owners meeting. You said that the new "power trippers" for lack of a proper name are going to be changed from the One Trip kind to the multiple trip kind. I'm lacking all the terminology which I'd like to have...

You said that when a trip occurs during a Red Flag warning the power will not come back on. How do we know it's a red flag? Power Company? Forest Service? DNRC? and where do we find this announcement? On the radio? via the internet? A Reverse 911 from Missoula County Emergency Services? DNRC comes to our house? How exactly is a Red Flag warning communicated to everyone?

More questions than answers.

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 7:17 PM Bill Cory <bilcory@gmail.com> wrote:

Nice meeting you in person today Dan! Thanks for letting me ask a bunch of questions. You were asking about the Lindy Alert. You can usually just google lindy alert. Otherwise the URL website is 7thHeaven.cloud
I really like the new thermostat. Hope it lasts a long time.
Bill Cory