

CYCLE OF PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

SEPTEMBER 2020 WINNERS



CHELAN COUNTY

PETER CHIZMAR, DAVE FISK, RYAN MATHENA, & SHANE RENSLow

On the evening of August 20th, a caller reported that there was a tree on the line in Cedar Brae at Lake Wenatchee, but there was no arcing and there were no sparks from the contact. The report came from a former fire chief. The System Operators immediately began calling out a line serviceman to investigate per normal procedure. Most calls like this are false alarms such as communication wire and historically they would wait for the serviceman to report back before taking further action. Due to heightened awareness of fire danger and concern about our infrastructure causing a fire, the System Operators began discussing the call; noted the fire danger was high (a flag in SCADA set by data scraped from the internet); and used data in PI to see if there was anything else that might indicate a potentially hazardous situation developing. In PI, they found B phase amps beginning to spike and they made the decision to open the feeder breaker remotely via SCADA. They then immediately called the on-call communication personnel and let the serviceman know the line had been opened as well. Due to the distance, it took the serviceman over an hour to arrive on scene where he found a tree in the primary. They had the serviceman open a recloser to sectionalize the line, closed in the breaker to get many customers back in power, and called out a crew to remove the tree. The System Operators have the responsibility to operate the system safely and reliably. In this situation, they demonstrated their empowerment by making data driven decisions that, while removing customers from service, may have prevented a wildfire.