



Governor's Best Practices in Workforce & Economic Development Award Nomination Application

Nominated Project Title: High Angle Rescue Certification

Project Lead Name: Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative **Phone number** 509-607-9401 **E-mail** tony@cwrec.org

Summary of nominated project (No more than two sentences.): To increase the number of first responders and emergency personnel trained to conduct high angle rope rescues in counties that have experienced rapid growth in utility scale turbine facilities. To improve emergency response time through professional dialog and cooperation between public emergency services and private facility operators.

Region and/or communities benefitting from project: Kittitas and Klickitat County

When (month and year) did nominated project launch: March 2011

Has the project/activity operated continuously since then: No

If not, explain:

The training courses are dependent on the availability of participants and a certified instructor. Since the initial 40-hour advanced course offered in March 2011, there have been two additional 40-hour courses and one 20-hour course administered. A total of 20 participants have received the ropes I or ropes II certification.

Start-up costs \$64,140.00 **Most recent annual budget:** \$71,438.00

List your major funding sources, including tax credits or incentives, grants, and other private sector support: South Central Workforce Development Council (SCWDC), Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative (CWREC), Puget Sound Energy

Describe the purpose (need) and the unique approach taken by the nominated project to satisfy the stated need (450 words or less)

Since 2005, Kittitas County and the Central Washington region has experienced significant growth among wind-generated power facilities. Kittitas County has three operating wind turbine facilities, an additional utility scale facility approved for construction, and additional facilities requesting permitting approval. Klickitat County has five wind turbine facilities in operation and seven additional in a construction phase or approved for construction. Both counties combined total more than 2100 megawatts of operating capacity. Prior to now, there has not been a structured dialog to maintain rescue preparedness of County first responders to conduct or assist in extracting and providing medical attention for a trapped or injured worker inside a nacelle. Many existing facilities operate with an emergency response plan that can only be executed by available on-site personnel because outside medical response professionals do not have necessary personal protective equipment or a functional knowledge of turbine safety protocol.

The CWREC is an Innovative Partnership Zone focused on renewable energy technology, technology transfer and commercialization. The group is comprised of Kittitas County, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Puget Sound Energy and enXco Development Corporation, and Central Washington University. The

SCWDC has been designated by the Governor as a local workforce area, for Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat and Skamania Counties. The SCWDC is responsible for oversight of the local workforce development programs, and the local employment and training One-stop Centers.

The CWREC conducted four training courses with a contract for services, two in Kittitas County and two in Klickitat County, with participation from multiple emergency response agencies and trained wind-industry technicians. An certified instructor from Pierce County Department of Emergency Management provided training instruction including: Climb Safety and Tower Rescue; High Voltage Safety; Confined Spaces; Hanging Grounds; Racking Breakers; Lockout Tag out; Hydraulics; and, Bearing Basics. The courses consisted of 40 hours total, divided between classroom lecture, small group drills and two simulated rescues from a turbine nacelle and down-tower. The second Klickitat course was adjusted to account for the Search and Rescue volunteers that compose the entire department. In order to include their participation the course was offered on a weekend and consisted of a 20-hour rope I certification with simulated field drills.

Describe how the nominated project incorporates both workforce and economic development practices and provides a benefit to workers and employers. (See cover page) (250 words or less)

Washington State has emerged as fifth in the nation of installed capacity for utility scale wind energy. This industry is growing because of favorable natural resources, existing utility infrastructure and initiative-based laws that require renewable portfolio standards for Washington utilities and utilities in neighboring states. Local economic activity over the lifespan of a wind facility is estimated to be approximately \$1 million per megawatt of installed capacity. This is how much economic development is brought back to communities through payroll, service centers and ongoing maintenance. Utility scale facilities also pay state sales tax, county property tax and junior taxing district levees in excess of hundreds of thousands annually. The high angle rescue certification has made these industrial facilities safer. The trainings have reduced the response time needed to save a trapped worker and render medical attention; increased the awareness and skill competency for private facility personnel and public first responders; and, improved the safety course curriculum through simulated rescues on three different manufactured turbine models and in different scenario climates. Two-thirds of the Klickitat County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Department, which is a volunteer corps, have received a high angle rope certification and an understanding of wind facility hazards.

Will the nominated project continue into the future? Yes

If yes, how will it be funded and sustained. (200 words)

The CWREC continues to liaison with its industry partners in the region to identify additional training courses for both private sector employees and public emergency responders. New courses for Community Emergency Response Training have been scheduled for this fall. Reports have been requested by the state Energy Facility Siting Evaluation Committee as consideration for future facility siting requirements. At this time additional financial commitments have not been made to retain a high angle rescue instructor for future courses. Ongoing training will emerge from an identified need, and our partners' continued interest in increasing the safety and preparedness for wind facility operators in central Washington.

In an attachment, demonstrate how this project/activity has made a quantifiable difference to the economic health of working people and employers. (Tables and graphs based on verifiable numbers. Words should be used only to support the data and should be kept to a minimum)

Check when done.

A short concluding statement on why you believe this project/activity is noteworthy or unique and should serve as a best practice model. (100 words or less)

This effort began by bringing a broad coalition of market competitors together to discuss activities that can benefit the wind energy industry as a whole. Through this training our organization is relieving the safety burdens and liability from local governments and facility owners by increasing the number of people capable of conducting a high angle rescue and adding to the personal protective equipment inventory of county first responders. This program introduced cooperation between county emergency services and wind facilities at a regional level. Prior to these courses only four of the 20 participants had ever been inside a nacelle or conducted field rescue drills of a turbine.

Program or Project's website or webpage: N/A

List the leading individual(s) or organization(s) that should receive special recognition for their role in the project or activity. Please provide name, title, role, address and phone number.

Patrick Baldoz, South Central Workforce Development Council (509) 574-1950

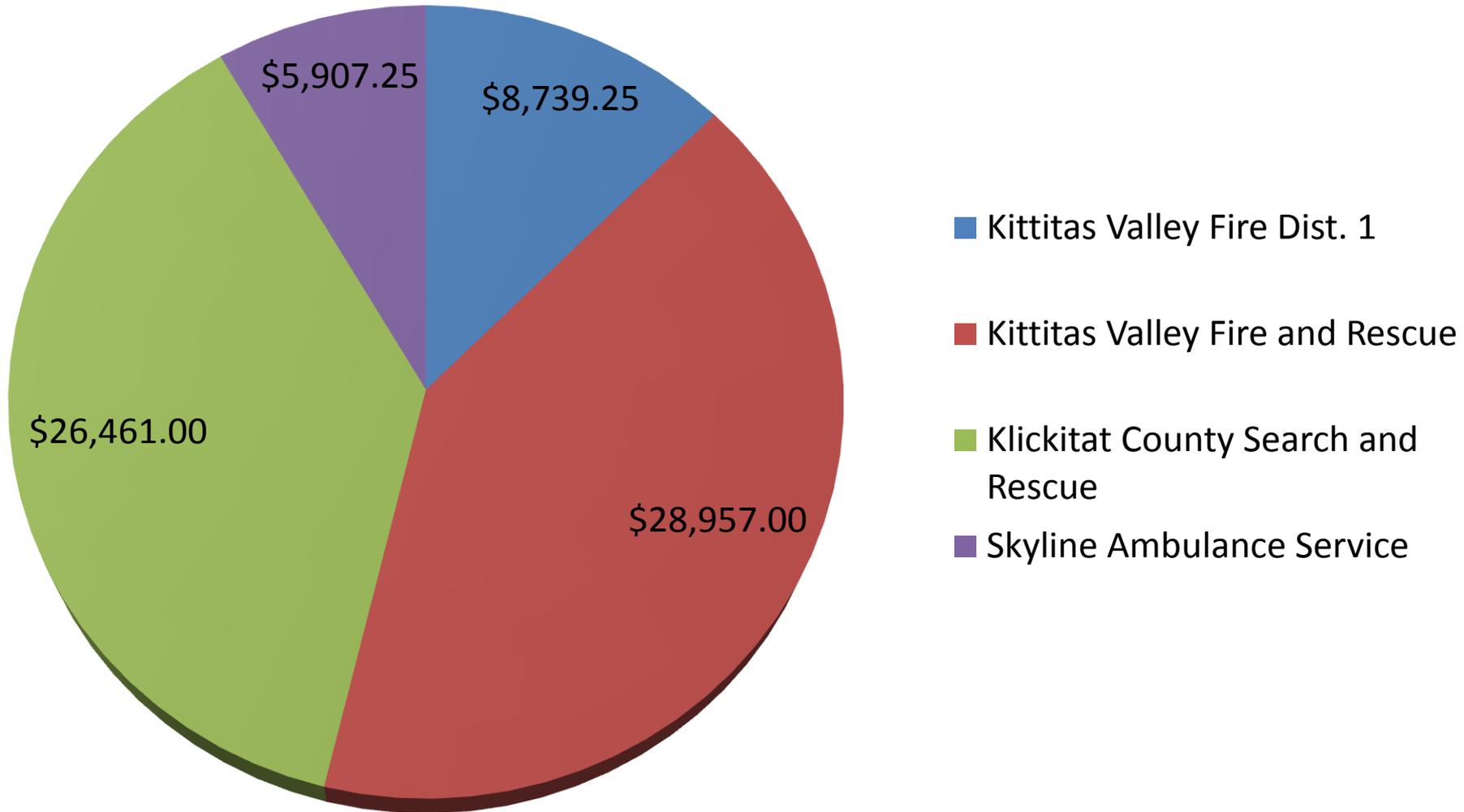
Paul Jewell, Kittitas County Commission (509) 962-7568

Brian Lenz, Puget Sound Energy (509) 925-3131

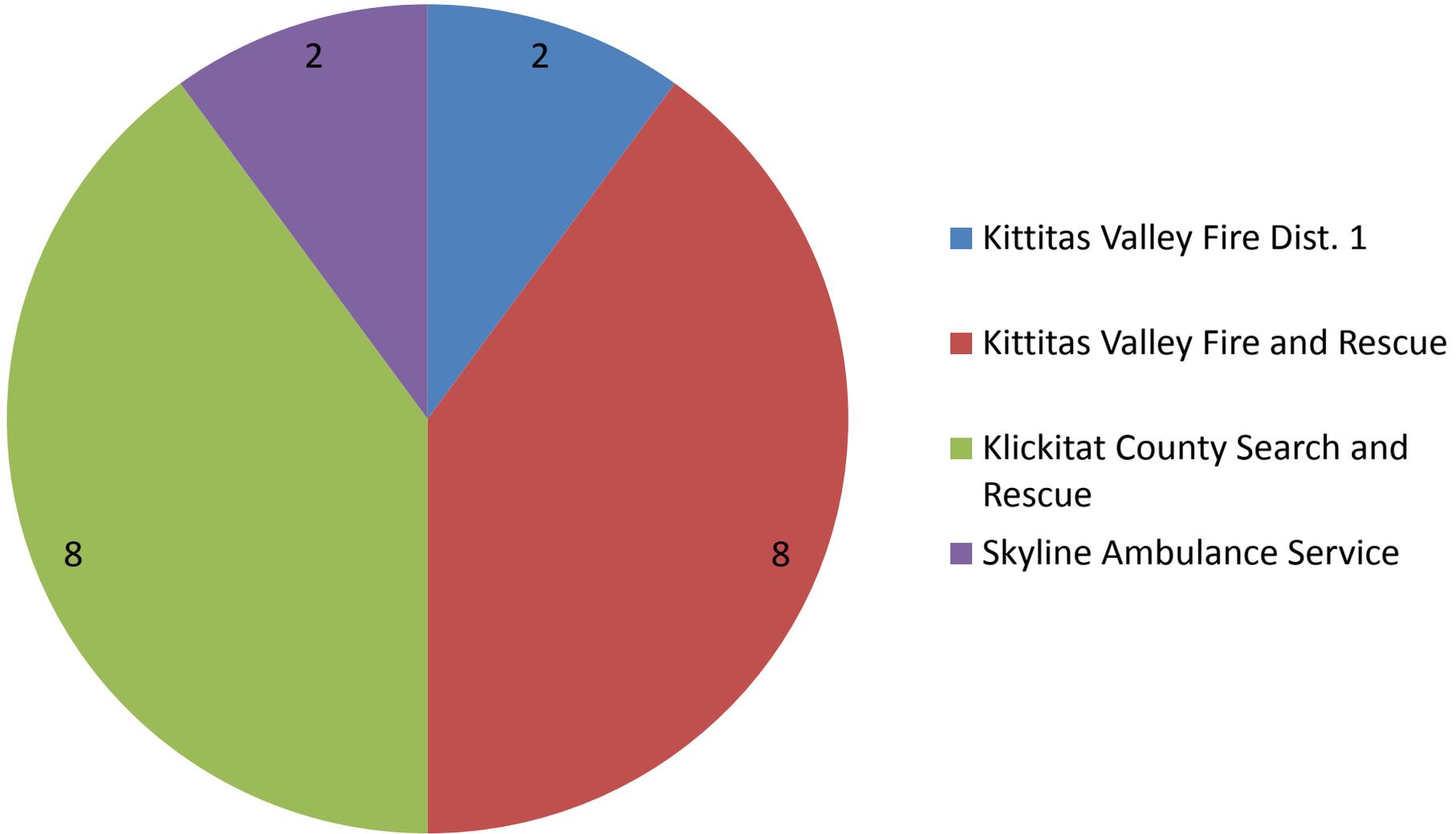
Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative

**Name and contact information of person completing this nomination form: Tony Aronica,
Program Coordinator, Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative (509) 925-2002**

Value of Resources Provided to Participating Departments



Number of Participants



The Goldendale Sentinel

News

August 10, 2011

Vo. 132, No. 32

Search and Rescue volunteers get training on new device, rope and rigging certification

By Karen Henslee
General Manager

"It's a tough job, but somebody's gotta do it."

When a backpacker on Mt. Adams takes an errant step that causes a fall and injury, oftentimes the Klickitat County Search and Rescue (KCSAR) volunteers are called out.

Driving two hours to get as close as possible and then hiking another two hours to the injured hiker requires stamina and strength.

Watching them on television, search and rescue operations seem to look relatively easy, but in reality the work requires regular rigorous training and discipline.

The Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative (CWREC) in partnership with the South Central Workforce Development Council (SCWDC) provided a rope, rescue and rigging certification course for the Klickitat County Department of Search and Rescue volunteers and the Skyline Hospital and Ambulance personnel. (Skyline ambulance is restarting their "reach to treat" program, using ropes to access the patient and provide medical attention until the SAR rope team can arrive to perform a rescue.)

This Ropes I course expanded the local first responders' preparedness with fall prevention and fall arrest techniques and standard rescue procedures. The enhanced training enabled emergency responders to assist in high-angle rescues through improved equipment orientation and use.

Counties in Central Washington and the Columbia Gorge regions have an increasing need for incident-ready responders amidst the tremendous growth of wind towers. Eight participants, including seven volunteers with the Klickitat County Search and Rescue, and one employee of Skyline Ambulance completed the 20-hour certification and field exercise this last weekend. Those completing the training include: Dorothy Miller, Tom Ireland, Darrell Fluit, Will Atkinson, Scott Ellesworth, Al Barrigar, Dave Satterwhite, and Jeff King.

On Saturday, the group spent the morning in the classroom, going over the basics of rope rescue and safety; the volunteers spent Saturday afternoon familiarizing themselves with equipment and working on knot tying. Sunday found the volunteers repeatedly scaling and descending over rock ledges and carrying a rescue litter up an embankment, in order to put their training and equipment into practice.

A new piece of equipment, MPD (Multi-Purpose Device), is new to KCSAR. It acts as pulley, rescue belay, and descent control device. Two of these devices were provided through a grant. This was the first opportunity to train with this new rescue tool.

Currently KCSAR consists of 14 volunteers from across the county. Ropes training is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (location TBA); general meeting and training is held on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Goldendale's KPUD.

KCSAR is always looking for dedicated and committed volunteers. Call Jeff King, KCSAR coordinator, at 773-4455; or check the Klickitat County website (klickitatcounty.org) Sheriff's office and download an application.

The Klickitat County Sheriff's office and KCSAR volunteers are preparing to host the 2012 Washington State Search and Rescue Conference, May 14 through May 20, 2012, at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds. Sponsorships, in-kind donations, and assistance with logistics are accepted. Contact King for more information at 773-4455.

Goldendale Sentinel | 117 W. Main St., Goldendale, WA 98620
Ph: (509) 773-3777 | info@goldendalesentinel.com | www.goldendalesentinel.com
Content and information copyright 2011 Goldendale Sentinel and Tartan Publications

Powered by ROAR Online Publication Software
© Copyright 2011 Lions Light Corp.
— Software for newspapers & magazines



Dorothy Miller heads over the edge.



Tom Ireland, Darrell Fluit and Will Atkinson, transport the litter (with practice dummy) uphill using climbing ropes and a new MPD pulley system.



Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 8, 2011

**RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP BRINGS SAFETY TRAINING FOR
EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

ELLENSBURG, WA - The Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative (CWREC) in partnership with the South Central Workforce Development Council (SCWDC) provided a rope, rescue and rigging certification course for the Klickitat County Department of Search and Rescue volunteers and the Skyline Hospital and Ambulance personnel. This Ropes I course expanded the local first responders' preparedness with fall prevention and fall arrest techniques and standard rescue procedures. The enhanced training enabled emergency responders to assist in high angle rescues through improved equipment orientation and use. Counties in Central Washington and the Columbia Gorge regions have an increasing need for incident-ready responders amidst the tremendous growth of utility-scale wind facilities. Eight participants, including seven volunteers with the Klickitat Department of Search and Rescue and one employee of Skyline Ambulance completed the 20-hour certification and field exercise over the August 6-7 weekend. An instructor from the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management with more than 30 years of experience as a professional rescuer facilitated the course.

The CWREC is a public-private partnership based in Ellensburg, Washington whose mission includes supporting the success of wind facilities and promoting this region to attract growth in renewable energy businesses. Additional safety trainings have been offered this year, including advanced high angle rescue trainings that certified 12 first responders and facilitated three rescue drills in operating turbine facilities. The CWREC is also hosting a regional industry trade conference, the Northwest Wind Operators' Conference and Exhibition, this September 26-28th in Cle Elum, Washington. The Conference agenda includes seminars on safety compliance and best practices, wind integration and other timely issues facing the wind industry and facility operators responsible for day-to-day decisions.

The South Central Workforce Development Council is an agent for workforce development that offers access to high quality academic and occupational skills education and

effective help to find work or training. Their training investments provide Washington employers access to the skilled workforce they need. The four high angle rescue courses offered since March 2011 provided intense small group drills and repetitions of skills to enforce proper techniques and good judgment in emergency situations.

###

For more information regarding the Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative, Northwest Wind Operators' Conference and Exhibition, and the South Central Workforce Development Council's Rope Certification Course please contact:

CWREC: Tony Aronica

Program Coordinator

Phone: (509) 962-7244

Email: Tony@cwrec.org

SAR: Jeff King

Search & Rescue Coordinator

Phone: (509) 773-4455

Email: jeffk@co.klickitat.wa.us

The South Central Workforce Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment/training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.