

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of white and light blue lines resembling a circuit board or a stylized tree. These lines branch out from the left edge, with small circles at various points, set against a blue gradient background.

# IDAHO POWER BATTERY FIRE

OCTOBER 10, 2023  
MELBA, IDAHO

# INCIDENT BACKGROUND

- Call relayed to Canyon County Dispatch from Owyhee County Dispatch at approximately 05:00hrs Monday, October 2, 2023.
- Melba Fire responded to fire and remained on scene until it was determined by the battery company it was safest to let the batteries burn out on their own.
- Idaho power set up a 200ft perimeter around the substation as recommended by the battery company. Roads around the site have been closed down.

# WHAT EXACTLY IS BURNING?

- The batteries are lithium iron phosphate batteries
- There are a total of 15 battery compartments with an A & B side for a total of 30 battery segments
- There are 18 cells per compartment on each side for a total of 36 compartments
- Batteries were staged at substation waiting for installation as a battery backup in the event of a power outage



# BATTERY COMPARTMENTS





# MONDAY UPDATE



- Road closures remained set up at Hill Road east of Baseline Road, Baseline Hill, and S. Powerline Road and Baseline Road.
- Idaho Power has flaggers at those intersections to keep unnecessary traffic out of the area
- Idaho Power has been on scene and will remain on scene for duration of incident
- CCEM will continue to assist Idaho Power as needed and will provide updates when available.

## TUESDAY UPDATE



- Batteries are still burning and 200ft perimeter along with road closures remains in place
- Idaho Power reported there is no other damage to equipment in the substation
- Cannot access the sight until the batteries are cooled down to 130 degrees. The battery compartments are registering at 650 degrees currently
- Air quality is being monitored by third party and there is no air quality concerns at this time



# WEDNESDAY UPDATE



- CCEM was asked to respond to scene for face to face communication update
- Air quality is still good
- Murphy fire is assisting third party vendor with monitoring air quality
- Current temperature of compartments is 670 degrees

# IS THERE COMMUNITY RISK?



View from corner of Baseline & Hill Road

- Air quality still remains in good
- All residents currently residing in their homes
- Idaho Power looking for alternate housing for some residents
- Crops in surrounding fields will be tested at neighboring residents request



# TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS INCIDENT

- CCEM and Idaho Power several months ago established a working relationship and have been training and planning together in the event a major incident occurred
- Communication between CCEM and Idaho Power has been very transparent which has made the incident go a lot smoother
- All stakeholders have been successful at putting out a unified message regarding the incident to the press

# LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

- What are the communication expectations the BOCC has of Emergency Management in the event of future incidents?
- Having one point of contact, CCEM, when it comes to dissemination of information and updates of incidents
- Future discussions for the establishment of BOCC policy regarding emergency declaration process

QUESTIONS?

