

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“CEC Plans Six-hour Power Outage in Sisters Tonight and Eagle Ridge Thursday”

Central Electric Cooperative will cut power at 10 p.m., tonight, to 3,094 Sisters area residents so that line crews can safely convert a substation from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts.

“Power to residents in Sisters, Indian Ford, Aspen Lakes and portions of Plainview and Dry Canyon should be restored by 4 a.m., Wednesday,” said CEC spokesman Alan Guggenheim.

Central Electric customers in the areas of Tollgate and Black Butte Ranch, including Camp Sherman, are not affected.

Central Electric plans a similar outage at 10 p.m., Thursday night, affecting 1,428 residents in the Eagle Ridge area, west of Cline Falls Highway. Eagle Crest Resort area residents, east of Cline Falls Highway, are not affected.

“Obviously, people should have flashlights and extra batteries,” said CEC spokesman Alan Guggenheim.

“Businesses and residents may want to switch off sensitive electronics, including computers, TVs and microwaves, and then restart them normally the next morning when power is restored,” said Guggenheim.

“People should also figure out, in advance, how to circumvent their automatic garage door openers in the event they need to back their car out of their garage, for whatever reason,” said Guggenheim.

“Parents may want to talk to their children before bedtime about what to expect in the event they wake up in the middle of the night and the light switch doesn’t work,” said Guggenheim. “The cost of a flashlight is minor compared to the feeling of assurance that it might give a child.”

“Oregon State University Extension Service advises that if doors are left closed, food in a well-stocked freezer should stay frozen for at least the six-hour duration of the outage,” he said.

Guggenheim said customers can also help CEC restore power more gradually if they switch off major appliances, such as water heater and heating system, or adjust thermostat controls before the 10 p.m. outage.

“All of these appliances require an immediate demand of energy when we restore power to a home or business. After power is restored, wait a half-hour, then start turning on major appliances one at a time, over 15 minute intervals. This helps Central Electric gradually pick up the load demanded by all of our customers,” he said.

“This conversion tonight is the culmination of 20 years of planning and tens of millions of dollars in construction upgrades from the Bonneville Power Administration’s substation in Redmond, 18 miles west to CEC’s substation in Sisters,” said Guggenheim.

“The upgrade from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts will improve system reliability and provide for increased power demand by new and existing customers,” said Guggenheim.

Guggenheim said the conversion to 115,000 volt service will not result in an increase in electric rates.

“We could not meet the future needs of our customers in this area with additional 69,000 volt service from the Bonneville Power Administration. Our switch to 115,000 volt service is necessary in order to meet forecasted load growth and to maintain reliability for our customers,” Guggenheim said.

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