

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Alan Guggenheim, Member Services Director
Central Electric Cooperative
T: 541-480-7431
C: 541-480-7431
E: aguggenheim@cec.coop

“CEC Advises Eagle Ridge Residents to Plan for Outage Tonight”

Central Electric Cooperative will cut power to 1,428 businesses and residents in the Eagle Ridge area west of Cline Falls Highway at 10 p.m., tonight (Thursday, Sept. 18), so that line crews can safely convert the substation serving that area to 115,000 volts.

“We expect to make the conversion from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts within six hours. We should have power restored by 4 a.m., tomorrow (Friday, Sept. 19), before most people wake up,” said Alan Guggenheim, spokesman for CEC.

All residents affected by this outage were mailed a notification letter two weeks ago. The outage doesn't affect Eagle Crest Resort residents east of Cline Falls Highway.

“We cannot 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,” he said.

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

Earlier this week, CEC successfully converted its transmission into Sisters, Indian Ford and Aspen Lakes areas to 115,000 volts.

“Tonight’s outage should be no different than when we restore power after inclement weather causes an unplanned outage,” said Guggenheim.

“Obviously, people should have flashlights and extra batteries,” he said.

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.

“Parents may also 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.”

“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.

Leave the door closed to refrigerators or freezers. Oregon State University Extension Services advises that in a well-filled freezer, food will probably stay frozen for at least the six-hour duration that CEC anticipates for the outage if the door is kept closed.

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.

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