



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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(541) 536-2126 • (800) 722-7219

Departments

Customer Service Option 3
Engineering Option 4
Marketing Option 5
Operations Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and
Emergencies: (541) 536-2165
or (800) 752-5935**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The beginning of a new year brings New Year's resolutions. At Midstate Electric, our resolution remains the same every year: to supply our member/owners with safe and reliable service at the lowest possible cost.

As you begin your new year, resolve to have an electrically safe new year. You can help accomplish this by conducting this 10-step electrical safety inspection:

1. Electrical outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be shock or fire hazards. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed.

2. Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters: Make sure GFCIs are installed where water and electricity may come in contact, such as kitchen, bathrooms, shop, basement and garage. Test GFCIs monthly.

3. Plugs: Never force plugs into outlets. Don't remove the ground pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Do not overload outlets.

4. Cords: Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, resting on furniture, or in high-traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls or floors.

5. Extension cords: Use on a temporary basis only. Make sure they have safety closures to protect from shock and injuries. If using outdoors, make sure they are outdoor-use rated.

6. Lightbulbs: Check wattages to ensure lightbulbs match fixture requirements. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

7. Circuit breakers: If a circuit breaker trips, is reset and trips again, assume there is something wrong. Repeated tripping

indicates a damaged or overloaded circuit. Do not ignore it. Call an electrician.

8. Appliances/electronics: If an appliance or electronic device trips a circuit breaker or has shocked you, immediately unplug it. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors.

9. Outdoor connections: Electric-powered equipment and power tools should not be used in wet conditions. Inspect for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings.

10. Service capacity: As you upgrade your home's lighting, appliances and electronics, your electrical service capacity may become overburdened. A licensed electrician can determine your service requirements. If your requirements have increased, call us so we can determine if MEC's equipment is sized properly.

ORECA-Action Grassroots Program

The Oregon State Legislature returns next month for a 35-day session. MEC will work actively with other Oregon electric co-ops to remind lawmakers of the importance of affordable and reliable electricity.

There are several issues this session that could increase costs for co-ops. I recently addressed two of them on this back page: the Oregon-mandated Columbia River spill, and cap and trade.

If we are to provide affordable power and best represent your needs, we need your participation in our grassroots program. When asked, these people contact elected officials to express support or opposition to a bill that would affect electric rates. Please see page 25 to join ORECA-Action.

General Manager Dave Schneider