



MIDSTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MIDSTATE Connection

A Monthly Publication for Midstate Electric Members

December 2017

541-536-2126

800-722-7219

After Hours:
Outages/Emergencies
541-536-2165 • 800-752-5935

Office Hours:
7 am - 5:30 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Take Time To Be Ready For Outages

Winter is fast approaching. MEC tries our best to ensure the electric system is ready to withstand winter storms by trimming and removing trees near power lines and performing routine maintenance. But, as we experienced a few years ago—you can never be too prepared for severe storms that may come our way.

It is always a good idea to be equipped for extended outages. Here are some basic items you should keep in your home in case of an emergency:

- Water: Several day supply, one gallon per person per day
- Food: Several day supply, non-perishable, high-energy, easily-prepared foods
- Clothing, extra blankets, sleeping bags, and sanitation supplies
- Tools: Flashlight, batteries, candles, matches, manual can opener, plates, utensils, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- First aid supplies, medicine
- Important documents

If your power goes out, you can call us at 541-536-2165 or you can report an outage through our SmartHub app via a mobile device. Simply download the SmartHub app from your app store. Click on Service Status and then click on Report an Outage. That's all there is to it!

For updated outage information, follow MEC on Facebook or Twitter on your mobile device. You can also view our live outage map at www.mse.coop.

For questions, feel free to call us at 541-536-2126 and we will assist you in using these great tools.



Congratulations!

In recognition of National Cooperative Month in October, Midstate Electric held drawings for nine members to receive a \$100 credit on their electric bills. There were five winners drawn from coupons from Ruralite and the Midstate Connection Newsletter and four from members who have LIKED us on Facebook. This year's Co-op Month winners were:

Heidi Ratliff
Scott Kittredge
Brent Maxwell

Mike Spletter
Kelly Henderson
Angela Benthin

Jerry Hinkle
Chris Desatoff
Dorothy Domrude

Look for details for next year's drawing in October 2018.

MEC Pays Members Capital Credits

The board of directors of Midstate Electric Cooperative has reviewed the financial condition of the cooperative and is pleased to announce the retirement of \$1.3 million in capital credits. In mid-December, members who purchased power during 2000 and/or 2001 will receive capital credit refunds in proportion to how much they contributed to those years' margins.

MEC is a not for profit business, which, among other things, means that operating margins flow back to its membership in the form of capital credits. Margins are the funds left over at the end of the year after all bills are paid. Margins are retained by the cooperative and used for several years, thus lowering the cost of providing electricity. The alternative would be to borrow money to run the cooperative, which in turn would raise the cost of providing service.

Refunds of capital credits are just one of the advantages of doing business the cooperative way.

MEC paid the last capital credit refund in December of 2016.



FRIENDS STAY CONNECTED



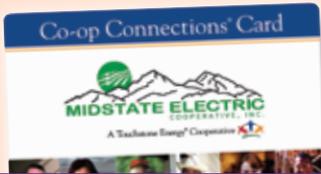
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER.

Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a member benefit that provides valuable local and national discounts. The most used benefit of the card, the pharmacy discount has saved members \$988,100 since June 2009.



If you need a Co-op Connections Card, call 541-536-2126, Option 5.

SmartHub The Center of Member Engagement

Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at www.mse.coop.

With SmartHub you can:

- ▶ Pay your bill
- ▶ View billing history
- ▶ Monitor energy usage
- ▶ Receive notifications via email or text message
- ▶ Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- ▶ Check MECs news feed



Join Peak Hour Rewards

Do you own your home? Do you heat with an air source heat pump or electric forced air furnace? Does your home have Wi-Fi? If you answered yes to all of these questions, we'd like to hear from you.

MEC is still looking for members to participate in Peak Hour Rewards peak demand reduction pilot program. The intent is to minimize our wholesale power costs by shifting peak time electric usage (typically between 7 am and 9 am October - April) to non-peak periods.

Participants will receive a free Wi-Fi programmable thermostat (\$150 value), a complimentary home energy audit and a \$10 bill credit each month they participate in 100% of the peak usage demand reduction events.

Please visit www.midstateelectric.coop/content/mec-seeking-demand-reduction-pilot-program-participants for more information or call 541-536-2126, Option 5.

Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative ACTION Grassroots Network



The Oregon State Legislature will return in February 2018 for a short 35 day session. MEC will be actively working with other Oregon electric cooperatives to remind lawmakers about the importance of affordable and reliable electricity.

If we are to provide affordable power and best represent the needs of you, our members, we need your participation in our grassroots network of electric co-op consumers throughout Oregon. When asked, these people contact elected officials to express support or opposition to a bill that would impact electric rates.

We need your help to keep electric rates affordable. Please take a moment to join Oregon Electric Cooperative ACTION by calling Marketing at 541-536-2126, Option 5 or emailing your name, address and phone number to marketing@mse.coop.

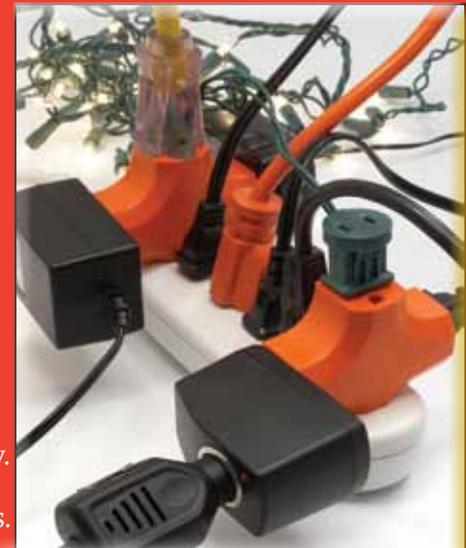
Your Safety Is Always Our Concern

Each new season brings its own set of safety hazard reminders, and winter is no exception.

As you and your family celebrate during the Holiday Season, Midstate Electric Cooperative encourages you to think safety when it comes time to decorate. Here are a few tips to add safety to that holiday sparkle:

Electrical and Extension Cords

- Before you start decorating, check cords for wear. When decorating outdoors, be sure decorations and extension cords are designed for outdoor use. All cords should be insulated and sockets attached firmly.
- When decorating outdoors, keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- Uncoil extension cords fully before use. Also, make sure the extension cord matches your amperage needs.
- Avoid placing cords near water pipes and appliances that put off a lot of heat. And remember, don't overload electrical outlets—too many plugs in one outlet can start a fire.
- Unplug cords when you string lights.
- Unplug lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave home. When unplugging a cord, pull on the plug head, not the cord.



Trees and Decorations

- Place trees away from fireplaces, candles, space heaters, electrical appliances and other heat sources.
- If you have a live tree, make sure it is fresh and gets lots of water.
- If you have an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.
- Keep paper decorations away from tree lights.



Stay Away From Downed Power Lines

If you see a downed line, don't touch it! Keep others away and call us immediately at 541-536-2165. Only our employees have the equipment and knowledge required to correct the situation.

**Have a Safe and
Happy Holiday
Season!**