

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2008

CONTACT:

Alan Guggenheim, Member Services Director
Central Electric Cooperative
541-480-7431

“CEC advises residents to prepare for 6 hour planned outage”

Eagle Ridge businesses and residents whose power will be cut by Central Electric Cooperative next week may want to do some advance planning.

Last week, CEC mailed letters to 1,428 residents in the Eagle Ridge area west of Cline Falls Highway, notifying them of their plans to cut power from 10 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, to 4 a.m., Friday, Sept. 19.

The Eagle Crest Resort and residential areas east of Cline Falls Highway are not affected.

“The date and time are subject to change due to heavy weather or events on the regional power grid beyond the control of Central Electric. Consult our website at www.cec.coop, as well as local radio, television and newspapers, and their websites, for news updates on the days of the planned outages for more information,” said CEC spokesman Alan Guggenheim.

The outage is required so that Central Electric line crews can safely switch power from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts, from the Bonneville Power Administration Substation in Redmond to CEC’s substation in Eagle Ridge Phase III. A similar outage and power conversion is planned two days earlier, on September 16, for 3,094 residents in Sisters, Indian Ford, Aspen Lakes and portions of Plainview and Dry Canyon.

“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,” said Guggenheim.

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

“Even if you’re not affected, you should always have a backup plan in the event the power goes out,” said Guggenheim.

“Obviously, people should have flashlights and extra batteries. But 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.

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.

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.