

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Sisters area 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 3,094 Sisters area residents, notifying them of their plans for a six-hour power outage planned for 10 p.m., Tuesday, September 16, through 4 a.m., Wednesday, September 17. The outage is necessary for the safety of engineers and line crew who will be converting the two transformers in the Sisters Substation from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts.

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

Residents affected by the planned outage should check the news media, including www.nuggetnews.com and Central Electric’s website at www.cec.coop, the day of the outage for updates. Dates and times are subject to change due to heavy weather or events on the regional power grid beyond the control of Central Electric.