



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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#### Departments

Member Service . . . . . Option 3  
Engineering . . . . . Option 4  
Marketing . . . . . Option 5  
Operations . . . . . Option 6

**After-Hours Outages 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

Vic Russell, Fall River

##### Vice President

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Tanna King, Chemult

Daniel Jansen, Christmas Valley

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Ron Cass, La Pine

Garry Journey, Crescent

Gil Ernst, Gilchrist

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

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

James "Jim" Anderson

##### Engineering Manager

Tom Weller

##### Operations Manager

Terry Dunn

##### CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### HR and Communications Manager

Sina Streeter

##### Marketing Manager

Joe Hull

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Prepare Now for Wildfire Potential

Spring is here. As the weather warms up, I want to start talking about wildfire preparedness and mitigation. Wildfires are starting to burn earlier and more intensely than ever, and it is never too early to talk about prevention or to be prepared in the event of a disaster.

Last year, more than 66,000 wildfires burned 7.5 million acres of land in the United States, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. The worst part? Many of these wildfires could have been prevented.

While some wildfires are caused by lightning, approximately 90% are caused by human error. Wildfires often occur when campfires are left unattended, debris is burned improperly or cigarettes are carelessly discarded.

A wildfire can grow rapidly out of control when three conditions are present: oxygen, fuel and a heat source. The fuel can be any flammable materials near the wildfire. The heat source can be a variety of things, such as campfires, cigarettes or even warm winds. When these three conditions are met, a violent wildfire can ensue.

By taking a few extra precautions, campers and outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the sights of nature without causing a wildfire. Here are a few tips from National Geographic to help prevent wildfires:

- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure you completely extinguish the fire when you're done. Drench the fire with water, and stir the ashes until cold.

- Play it safe when using fueled lanterns, heaters and stoves. Lighting and heating devices should be cool before refueling. Keep flammable liquids and fuel away from appliances.

- Never discard cigarettes, matches and smoking materials from moving vehicles

or anywhere on park grounds. Completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.

- When burning yard waste, follow local ordinances. Avoid burning in windy conditions. Keep a shovel, water and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check.

- If conditions are right and you find yourself in the path of a wildfire, evacuate immediately. Listen to local emergency notifications for the most up-to-date information. Better yet, make a wildfire plan for you and your family before a fire occurs.

Midstate Electric Cooperative continues an aggressive vegetation management program. This includes tree trimming and brush clearing to reduce flammable material and mitigate fire risk around power lines. We invest in system hardening by building infrastructure that can withstand fire. We replace wood poles with alternative materials in fire hazard areas and strategically convert overhead lines underground.

We encourage you to proactively safeguard your home by maintaining your property and removing combustible debris.

During red flag conditions, MEC's management staff evaluates the conditions and takes appropriate actions. In most cases, placing our system on a high-sensitivity setting is our first line of defense. Only under imminent danger to life or property will MEC implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff. Examples are if a fire has started and firefighting crews need the power shut off for their safety or if energized lines are on the ground.

Please join us in taking an active role in your safety and the safety of our communities during this wildfire season.

**CEO/General Manager Jim Anderson**