



MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935

No Posting Zone: Power Poles

Most jobs do not require you to climb 40 feet in the air and conduct business within a few feet of high voltage power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity. However, for many utility workers, this is just another day at the office.



Midstate Electric along with the Safe Electricity program urges everyone to keep utility poles free from all personal materials such as balloons, fliers, and metal objects like staples or tacks. By respecting utility poles, you can help keep your community powered, and your local utility workers safe.

This practice is not only illegal in many areas, but also creates hazards for the linemen who repair and maintain utility poles and other electrical infrastructure and can increase your monthly utility bill.

Utility workers use specialized climbing devices to perform regular maintenance and repair damaged power lines at the top of utility poles. Nails, tacks, and other metal objects that are used to attach objects to utility poles can interfere with the safe operation of the climbing boots used by utility workers.

Foreign objects that are embedded in utility poles can also snag or damage the protective clothing that keeps line workers safe from electrical shock. These men and women already work in extremely hazardous conditions, so everyone who relies on electricity should take steps to make their job as safe as possible.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles, and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Charging MADE EASY

As of May 25th, we have officially launched our new Residential EV Charging Program. MEC members with an electric vehicle that has a battery size of 2 kWh and is registered at an address in our territory are eligible to receive a free EV charger. A copy of the DMV registration must be provided to Midstate.

We are supplying the equipment only; it is up to the homeowner to have a licensed electrician install the charger. The charger must be hard-wired and requires a 40-amp breaker.

Why is Midstate willing to give me a charger?

Midstate receives updates from the State every six months on how many EVs are registered in our territory. We have no information beyond this number. We have assumptions about how these EVs are affecting our system, but we need hard data to design future EV programs. The chargers we are supplying to our members will communicate back to us so we can learn how and when they are being used. After this data is collected and analyzed,



Joe Hull, MEC Marketing, with one of the free EV chargers.

Midstate could offer programs designed to change charge times such as load-shifting, demand response, or time-of-use rates.

What kind of charger is it?

The chargers we are supplying are from Zef Energy. Zef takes a Clipper Creek charger and adds communication and control modules, turning a simple plug and play charger into a "smart" charger. These chargers have a capacity of 7.7kW, which will add about 25 miles of range per hour of charging.

What if I move?

If you are moving to another location that is served by Midstate you may bring the charger with you. If you are moving outside of Midstate's territory you must leave the charger behind.

Why does Midstate want to know about my charging?

EV charging could have negative effects on the MEC system depending on where, how, and when it takes place. The effects could be on our physical infrastructure or our power bills from BPA. The data that MEC collects now will ensure that we can properly plan to mitigate these effects in the future, particularly as EVs continue to grow in popularity.

Call our Marketing & Communications department at 541-536-2126, option 5, if you meet the criteria to receive a free EV charger for your home.

Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients!

Line Worker Scholarship \$25,000

- Corbin Coulter - North Lake High School

Graduating Senior Scholarships \$2,500-\$5,000

- Wyatt Montgomery - La Pine High School
- Lane Plotner - La Pine High School
- Kristie Milner - North Lake High School

- Garrett Huffman - Gilchrist High School

- Liam Windhamsmith - Redmond Proficiency Academy

Continuing Education Scholarship \$2,500

- Holly Silvey - Texas A&M University



Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



Surge Protection 101

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere--unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge

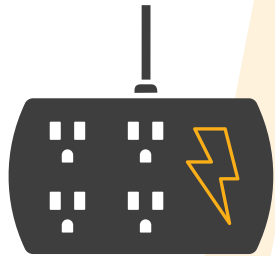
caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage--then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home.

Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a trusted electrician to learn more.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.



KEEP YOUR EQUIPMENT SAFE

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

IMPORTANT MEC INFORMATION & Dates to Remember

Retired Midstate Equipment for Auction

On Thursday, July 20th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., we will hold an auction and sale of retired MEC equipment. There



are multiple items priced for first come, first served sales and five silent auction closed bid items. Silent auction bidders will receive a form to privately bid. Auction results will be released Monday, July 24th. Payments will be taken at the Member Service desk after you have selected your purchases. See you there!

MEC at the Deschutes County Fair

If you are headed to the Deschutes County Fair on August 2-6 this year, take some time to visit the Midstate Electric high-voltage safety demonstration. The whole family will benefit from learning how to be safe around electricity. Our staff and line crew will be there to share information and to answer any questions you might have.

Save The Date: Community Blood Drive

Our next community blood drive with the American Red Cross is Tuesday, August 29th from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Midstate Electric Cooperative Community Room. Look for the link to sign up on our website and social media early next month.

MEC Calendar Contest Ends August 7th



We invite you to share your most beautiful, high resolution photos with us for a chance to be featured in our 2024 Member Calendar. 13 winners

will be selected. Each monthly winner will receive \$50 and the cover photo winner will receive a grand prize of \$200.

Submissions are accepted online at <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/calendar-contest>. Printed submissions can be dropped off at our office or mailed to: MEC Marketing & Communications, PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739

MEC Office Closed July 4th

MEC's office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4th. Give us a wave at the Frontier Days 4th of July Parade! Our outage line is available 24/7 at 800-752-5935.