



# 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



## Please Update Your SmartHub Contact Information

SmartHub is available for you to manage your electric account 24/7. It is crucial to keep your contact information up to date so that you can receive important updates from MEC.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill online
- Monitor energy use
- View billing history
- Receive notifications via email or text
- Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- Check MEC's news feed

To update your contact information, visit SmartHub at [www.mse.coop](http://www.mse.coop).

## 2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour



We will send two student delegates to represent MEC at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. on June 16-22, 2024. This all expenses-paid trip is a unique opportunity for high school sophomores or juniors in our service territory.

Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for additional information. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, January 31, 2024.



## Get Ready to 'Light Up the Season' with Midstate's Newest Holiday Contest

Do you love decorating for the holidays? Then help us spread some cheer this holiday season and enter our "Light Up the Season" contest! We encourage you to deck your homes or businesses with lights, lawn ornaments, wreaths, and more to help bring holiday cheer to families across our service territory.

Enter for a chance to win a cash prize, recognition on our social media, and most importantly - bragging rights! Start gathering your holiday decorations now if you think you've got what it takes to be the brightest, most creative, and most festive Midstate member.

This contest could become a new cherished tradition throughout our community. Something to look forward to each year and bring people from near or far to admire the dazzling light displays. Please join us in making this a bright and beautiful season!

**Contest Runs November 24 - December 14**

How to Enter:

1. Take a photo or video of your holiday display
2. Submit your photo or video online at: [www.midstateelectric.coop/lightcontest](http://www.midstateelectric.coop/lightcontest)

**Deadline:** December 14

**Winners Announced:** December 21



We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving! We are grateful for the privilege to serve our wonderful members. Our office will be closed for the holiday. Our outage line, 800-752-5935, is open 24 hours a day to assist you.





## Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

**Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.**

- 1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.** If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.
- 2. Inspect electrical cords.** We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...

- 3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.
- 4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.
- 5. Practice safety in the kitchen.** As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

We want you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit [www.midstateelectric.coop](http://www.midstateelectric.coop) for additional safety tips.

## Midstate's Rocking the Stocking Giveaway is Back!

Tis' the season to spread joy and warmth, and we're here to make your child's dreams come true. Santa's workshop has nothing on us! Enter now for a chance to win your child a giant stocking filled with gifts that will make this holiday unforgettable.

Midstate elves will stuff two giant stockings to be raffled off to two children in our service territory.

Entering is as easy as sipping hot cocoa by the fire:

**Visit our website and enter to win at [www.midstateelectric.coop/stocking](http://www.midstateelectric.coop/stocking).**

Make sure your children are in the running for a chance to win one of these incredible stockings before the November 22 deadline!

Contest Rules:

Must be a child of a Midstate member between the ages of 4-12 years old.



## Do You Use Budget Billing?

In the course of a year, your monthly electric bill goes up and down depending on the season and the amount of energy your home uses.

Budget Billing allows your payment to stay the same all year long by averaging out your bill over twelve months, thus helping to minimize the impact of winter bills.

You may qualify for this program if you have been at the same address for twelve continuous months. Budget accounts recalculate in November, although accounts with larger balances may require more frequent review.

For more information, call Member Service at 541-536-2126, option 3.