

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CEC Repairing Car-Pole Power Outage in Sisters

CEC crews are working at this time to restore power to approximately 3,000 customers still without power in the Sisters area after a car crashed into one of the co-op's transmission poles on U.S. Hwy. 126 between Sisters and Redmond.

"We hope to have power restored into Sisters early this afternoon," said Alan Guggenheim, Member Services Director of CEC.

Initially, approximately 4,400 homes and businesses in Sisters, Indian Ford, Aspen Lakes and portions of Plainview, and in the Eagle Ridge subdivision west of Cline Falls Road near Redmond, lost power at 3:30 a.m. this morning when a car struck and sheered a 70-foot transmission pole just east of Hurtley Ranch Road on U.S. Hwy. 126.

CEC line crews restored power to about 1,400 customers in the Eagle Ridge subdivision by about 7 a.m.

Because of the ongoing accident investigation by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department, CEC was unable to commence repairs to the transmission pole on Hwy. 126 until 8 a.m.

"We've got every available man working on restoration of this vital line," said Guggenheim. "Our goal is 1 p.m., this afternoon."

Oregon Department of Transportation has barricaded the affected portion of Hwy. 126, between Cloverdale Road and Geo. Cyrus Road to enable CEC's crews to work without traffic around them.

"This helps considerably," said Guggenheim.

The affected transmission line was converted last fall from 69,000 volts to 115,000 volts, from the Bonneville Power Administration Substation in Redmond to both CEC's substation in Sisters and its substation in Eagle Ridge Phase III. The co-op was able to reroute service to Eagle Ridge and restore power before beginning repairs on the pole destroyed by the car crash.

Because of the freezing temperatures and snowy conditions, 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 downward so that when power is restored this afternoon the system doesn't have a sudden demand for electricity.

"All of these appliances require an immediate demand of energy when we restore power to a home or business. After power is restored this afternoon, 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," Guggenheim said.

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