



May 2025 Newsletter

FIBER INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

OCEC, Methow Fiber and Methownet are actively working with contractors to build the fiber network and improve broadband services in our area.

Beginning in May you will see contractors working in the areas of the town of Winthrop, Mazama and Lost River Rd. Intermittent power outages will be needed to isolate areas as the contractors complete phases of the project. OCEC will make strong efforts to notify members who will be affected by these outages as they come up.

Methownet will remain the point of contact for questions and service, visit www.methownet.com for updates, maps and FAQs.

OCEC WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

OCEC operations staff will be monitoring the weather and conditions as we move into the heat of summer and will notify the membership via text alert or email when conditions warrant a change to our system processes. We are currently in normal “Green” operations.

If you have not already signed up for our text message alerts, please call (509) 996-2228 during office hours or go to the Member Services section of www.ocec.coop to sign up for the text alerts.

We encourage all members to have their own wildfire preparedness plan in place including establishing your own loss of power emergency plan for your household.

Below is our Wildfire Mitigation plan weather alert matrix.

Weather Conditions	Communicated “Level” to Membership	Field Recloser Status	Substation Recloser Status	Changes in OCEC Work or Processes?
Normal	None	Normal	Normal	None
Elevated	Yellow	Altered to “non-reclose” or “one-shot” status	Normal	Increased awareness of fire risk in the field, daily tracking of current and forecast weather
Red Flag Warning	Red	Altered to “non-reclose” or “one-shot” status	Altered to “non-reclose” or “one-shot” status	May delay all overhead equipment work depending on location and conditions, daily tracking of current and forecast weather

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OCEC WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

OCEC is excited to welcome our new Journeyman Lineman Evan Nickell to the team. Evan grew up in Chelan and has 12 years of experience in the industry. The trade has taken him all over the country, working in Oklahoma and Arkansas. In his free time, he enjoys the many outdoor activities our area provides, including hunting and fishing. We are pleased to welcome him to the team, and he is happy to be back in his home state.



WILDFIRE AWARENESS TIP

To prevent potential wildfires, store flammable items safely. Keep firewood, propane tanks and other flammable items away from structures.



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