

PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

Positive Results from MPE's Wildfire Mitigation Initiatives

Mountain Parks Electric's (MPE) wildfire mitigation work is helping protect members and reduce the impact of power outages in 2026, even as this year's fire season has started earlier and brought more severe wildfire conditions than last year. MPE's investment in smoke-detecting cameras in Fraser and on Walton Peak has also helped alert emergency responders to area wildfires more quickly.

When the power goes out, life can seem to come to a standstill. It's a challenge at home and at work. MPE's electric distribution system is designed and maintained to withstand summer and winter storms, with safety and outage prevention as our top priorities. However, sometimes safety must take priority over reliability, which is the case during fire weather conditions.

That shift has required MPE to use Fire Protection Settings, which make power lines more sensitive so they will de-energize almost instantly when the system detects an irregularity, reducing the risk of sparks. While this added protection is important, it can also lead to additional outages.

The effect is most notable during Red Flag Warnings, when the system is set to its highest level of sensitivity. **As of July 15, 2026, there had been 10 Red Flag Warning days for our area—twice as many as were recorded in all of 2025.**

MPE appreciates the member support and patience as we all work together to keep our families and communities safe through this wildfire season. Our team has been working to refine our system to minimize outages and improve reliability while maintaining the highest possible level of safety.

Outage numbers overall are also showing improvement over last year, even though our area has experienced more severe drought and higher winds. In both May and June, MPE experienced fewer outages than in the same months in 2024 and 2025.

Compared to 2025, outage totals were approximately 31% lower in May and 14% lower in June, despite the earlier start of fire season this year.

CASE STUDY

Along the largest circuit in North Park, equipment was installed that automatically isolates problems and limits outages to smaller areas.

PEAK 2025 FIRE SEASON

21 OUTAGES
affecting more than
2,100 members.

JUNE 2026*

14 OUTAGES
affecting 705 members.
Outage durations decreased
by nearly 1/3

*With conditions even more extreme than 2025

While no single project can prevent every outage, several ongoing reliability improvements are helping strengthen the electric system:

- **Additional protective equipment** has been added throughout the system to isolate outages to smaller areas.
- **Improved system monitoring technology** provides real-time updates on power lines and equipment, allowing for faster and more precise responses.
- **MPE's four-year tree-trimming cycle** ensures every part of the system is reviewed at least every four years to keep vegetation away from power lines.
- **Equipment upgrades** have continued following MPE's detailed 2025 aerial inspection of overhead lines and equipment.

While we recognize that outages are still occurring during fire season, MPE will continue to monitor outage trends, make targeted system improvements, and communicate with members about the work being done to strengthen reliability and safety.



Smoke Detection Cameras Providing Added Protection

MPE's partnership with Pano AI to install two panoramic cameras overlooking high-risk fuel areas in the Fraser Valley and on Walton Peak has also delivered significant benefits.

Pano alerts were sent to area first responders when smoke was detected from the recent Green Ridge and Fishhook fires near the western edge of MPE's service territory in Routt County. Agencies have continued to use the Pano platform during ongoing firefighting efforts, as the cameras provide high-definition aerial views with up to 30x zoom capabilities.

Earlier this summer, the 333 Fire near Williams Fork Reservoir was also detected by a smoke-monitoring camera within the Pano network, which automatically sent alerts to area first responders. The Grand County Sheriff's Office, for example, has four staff members who receive Pano alerts. Summit County officials were also notified and reached out

directly to Grand County Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, who later shared praise for the Pano system.

"With Grand County spanning 1,850 square miles, it is impossible to have an emergency responder at every location," said Sheriff Schroetlin. "By partnering with Mountain Parks Electric and using the Pano system, we gain an extra set of eyes in our remote areas, helping us respond more quickly to smoke reports and wildland fire calls."

MPE's two cameras see engagement from numerous different agencies, including East Grand Fire Protection District, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control's Northwest District, Grand Fire Protection District, the Bureau of Land Management Northwest District, the NoCo Interagency Dispatch Center and others.

Fiber/Broadband Internet Update from Conexon Connect

MPE continues to receive requests from members for information about the fiber buildout to homes and businesses across our service territory. Below is a statement for MPE members from Conexon Connect regarding their fiber network buildout. Conexon Connect has promised to continue to provide regular updates, which we will continue to share in our newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM CONEXON CONNECT:

Conexon Connect remains committed to bringing high-speed fiber internet to Mountain Parks Electric members. Work is ongoing behind the scenes to keep things moving, and our team continues to move through the make-ready phase — preparing the existing electric infrastructure to safely carry fiber lines — across the service territory. We anticipate this make-ready work, including the actual make-ready construction where we upgrade or replace power poles to accommodate the fiber cable will continue well into 2027.

We are also continuing to work through required environmental reviews and federal agency permitting processes which can be time consuming, but are necessary to receive approval for the actual fiber-optic line construction.

We know members are eager for service availability times and updates on when fiber construction will reach their area. Fiber construction cannot begin until make-ready work and permit processes are complete. At this time, we anticipate the earliest fiber construction could begin is in the latter half of 2027. We understand members are anxious for service and the timeline is not as fast as desired. We appreciate your patience as we work through this important groundwork and prepare to build the fiber network. As specific milestones are reached, including the start of active construction in new areas, we'll share those updates directly.

More information about Conexon Connect is available at www.conexonconnect.com or by calling Conexon customer care at (844) 542-6663.

SUSTAINABLE GRAND'S

EV Charging Resources

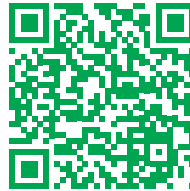
Sustainable Grand is excited to share a new resource designed to support electric vehicle travel and charging access throughout Grand County.

With funding from the Grand County Colorado Tourism Board, their team has developed comprehensive EV resources to help residents, visitors, businesses, and community partners better understand the county's growing charging network and EV opportunities.

- Grand County EV Charging Map
- Grand County EV Charging Directory
- Grand County EV Infrastructure Report

Learn more and access these resources at:

www.sustainablegrand.org/education/evs-charging.



MPE Assists CPW in Freeing Osprey

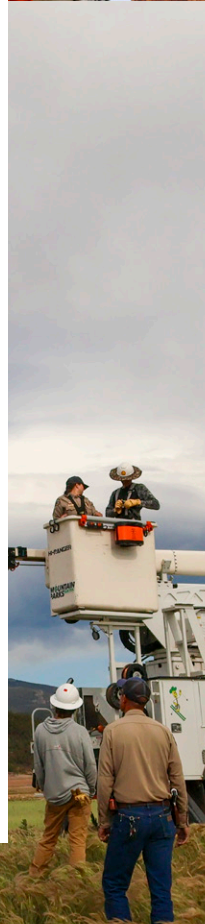
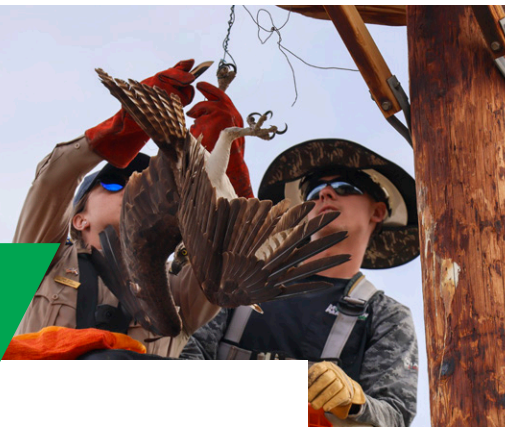
MPE Apprentice Lineman Cord Cooper and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Officer Trainee Erin Ortiz untangled an osprey near Grand Lake on July 8, 2026. The osprey was caught up in a wire/rope fishing stringer. A member of the public reported it to the Hot Sulphur Springs CPW Office.

According to Annie Hart, CPW Species Conservation Biologist for Areas 8 and 9, events like these are good reminders for the public to clean up after fishing or enjoying time on the water.

"OSPREY PAIRS SOMETIMES TRY TO INCORPORATE MANMADE MATERIALS THEY FIND ALONG THE SHORE INTO THEIR NESTS. I'VE SEEN THEM PICK UP EVERYTHING FROM BUNGEE CORDS TO CROCS,"

she said. "This debris poses a hazard both in the nest and outside of it. Wildlife entanglement is unfortunately a common issue, but it can be minimized by keeping foreign materials out of our lakes and streams."

MPE was happy to respond to this CPW request for a bucket truck and lineman assistance to aid in helping this osprey.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, August 13

MPE Board of Directors Meeting

In Kremmling at the Kremmling Area Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, August 13

Back to School Cookout

At the Kremmling High School for WGSD, serving starts at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2

MPE Member Appreciation Event

At Polhamus Park in Granby, 7–10 a.m.

Thursday, September 10

MPE Board of Directors Meeting

In Walden at the River Rock Cafe and Lunch with JCCOA

Tuesday, September 15

Coffee with MPE—Grand Lake

At Sagebrush BBQ & Grill, 8–10 a.m.

Monday, September 28

Coffee with MPE—Fraser/Winter Park

At Simple Coffee, 8–10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 13

Coffee with MPE—Kremmling

At Big Shooters, 8–10 a.m.

Monday, November 16

Coffee with MPE—Granby/

Hot Sulphur Springs area

At Java Lava, 8–10 a.m.

More details to come! Check in at www.MPEI.com/Events for updates.

We're Here to Help

Have questions about your MPE service? Our friendly Member Services Representatives are here to help. From bill line items to energy usage and SmartHub logins, they can answer all your MPE-related questions.

Call (970) 887-3378, option 3

Congratulations to our July winner of the Outdoor Photo Contest—Sarita Feliz Kings! She captured this stunning sunset from her back porch in Tabernash, where she and her husband feel fortunate to be enjoying their retirement in the beautiful state of Colorado.

Enter Our Outdoor Photo Contest, Win Prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, on social media, and possibly in a future MPE photo calendar.

Winners will be selected monthly. In addition to social media tags and promotion, winners will be entered to win a \$500 gift certificate to B&H Photo.

Visit tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest or scan the QR code to submit your photos!

Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.



MPE TIME MACHINE:

Member News in 1950s & 1960s

As we continue to celebrate our 80th anniversary, we're taking a look back at what life was like in MPE's service area over the years.



HINTS FOR HOMEMAKERS



CHOCOLATE PIE (Prize Recipe)

- 7/8 cup Sugar
- 2 tablespoons Cocoa
- 2 tablespoons Corn Starch
- 2 cups Sweet Milk
- 2 eggs (Beaten) pinch of Salt
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 Baked Pie Crust

Mix sugar, cocoa, corn starch and salt. Add milk and egg yolks (Beaten) and cook in double boiler until smooth and thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add vanilla and cool before pouring into baked pie crust. Whipped cream may be used instead of meringue.

What do you think? Should we make chocolate pie for our Member Appreciation event?

FARMER JIM SAYS

Y'KNOW we had another lightning storm last week and another limb came down out of the old maple tree in front of our house. Once again I had to drag out the old milk pails and go at it by hand—for that limb came down right square across our power line.

'Course I called the office right away and told them where the trouble was, and when the line w showed up I told them they could cut the old maple down anytime they wanted to. Yes sir, I figured that the time for sentiment was past, even though Grandad did set it out. That old maple has been dropping limbs all over the place lately and most ever time those limbs would knock our power off too.

We're going to plant a new one from the line aways and I feel better about the whole situation. I suspect our neighbors down the road feel better too, for that old tree was not only putting our lights out, but theirs out too.

We love Farmer Jim, but don't do what he did in 1950 and try to trim a tree by yourself standing on milk pails. **Instead, call MPE right away!**

