FREE COST GUIDE

Emergency electrician cost in Portland, Oregon: what you'll pay when it can't wait

The honest numbers behind an emergency call: what it costs to get a licensed electrician to your door any hour, what moves the price from there, and how upfront pricing works when something is sparking.

If you're reading this at 11pm with a burning smell in the hallway, here's the short version: call an electrician now, and if you see smoke or flames, get out and call 911 first. The cost question is real, but it should never keep you from making a dangerous situation safe. This guide exists so you know what you're agreeing to before anyone is standing in your kitchen.

Searching "emergency electrician cost" in a stressful moment mostly turns up national averages from lead-generation sites that have never wired anything in Oregon. We're a 24/7 emergency electrician in Portland, so here is how the money actually works when you call us, at 2pm or 2am.

Why emergency pricing feels scary, and why it shouldn't

The fear with an emergency call is the blank check: someone shows up at night, you're in no position to negotiate, and the bill becomes whatever it becomes. That's a fair fear, and the fix is simple. You should know the cost of getting a professional to your door before they leave the shop, and you should see the cost of the actual repair, in plain numbers, before any work starts. That's how we run every emergency call.

What does an emergency electrician cost in Portland?

Getting a technician on-site is our $295 Electrical Service Appointment, the standing rate on our pricing page. It includes up to the first hour of labor for troubleshooting and minor repairs, so smaller problems are often fixed on the spot; anything bigger gets repair options with upfront pricing, and no repairs happen without your approval. What the repair itself costs depends on what failed, and here is what moves that number.

What affects the price	Why it matters
Getting eyes on the problem	The $295 Electrical Service Appointment includes the service visit and up to the first hour of labor for troubleshooting and minor repairs, so a small fault is often found and fixed in the same visit. Anything bigger gets an upfront price before work proceeds. Materials are additional.
How hard the fault is to find	A scorched outlet is obvious. Power lost to half the house with nothing visibly wrong can mean tracing circuits through walls, which simply takes longer to find than a scorched outlet.

What affects the price	Why it matters
What actually failed	A failed breaker is a small repair. A water-damaged or burned panel is a replacement, and a full panel replacement in Portland generally runs $2,500 to $7,500. You'll see which situation you're in, in writing, before deciding anything.
Storm damage and utility coordination	A bent service mast or a line pulled off the house involves the utility disconnecting and reconnecting power around the repair, and the scope varies house to house. We coordinate that and put the whole picture in the quote.
Permits and inspection	Repairs that modify service equipment or panels require an Oregon electrical permit and inspection. It's a modest line item, we build it into the quote, and it's what keeps the repair documented for insurance and resale.

These are our standing published rates, not a night-of-crisis special. Repair pricing is presented upfront after assessment, no repairs happen without your approval, and if the honest answer is that your problem can safely wait for a scheduled visit, we'll tell you that too.

The $295 Electrical Service Appointment, explained

The $295 includes the service visit and up to the first hour of labor for troubleshooting and minor electrical repairs. A Smiley Electric technician talks with you about the problem, inspects and troubleshoots it, and if it can reasonably be handled within that time, can often take care of it during the appointment. Materials are additional. If more labor or a larger repair is needed, we explain what we found and give you an upfront price before proceeding. If the situation turns out to be minor, it's often fixed within that first hour, and honestly, on a night with a burning smell, that certainty is most of what you're buying.

If you're not sure the problem needs anyone tonight, call anyway. A ballpark by phone or photo is free, the phone consultation starts immediately, and we'll tell you honestly whether it can wait, because not every scare is an emergency.

Is it an emergency, or can it wait for morning?

Some problems are genuinely dangerous and some just feel that way at night. Call immediately, any hour, for burning or electrical odors, sparking from a panel or outlet, hot outlets or switch plates, water in or around your panel, a storm-damaged mast, or a line down on your property. Those are the conditions where waiting is the expensive choice.

On the other hand, a single dead outlet with no smell and no heat, or a breaker that tripped once and reset cleanly, can usually wait for a scheduled service appointment, without the midnight adrenaline. If you're unsure which one you have, the free phone consultation exists for exactly that call.

What the big emergency repairs involve

The most expensive emergencies in Portland follow the weather. Windstorms and ice bend service masts and pull overhead lines off houses; those repairs involve securing the equipment, coordinating with the utility to disconnect and reconnect power, pulling the permit, and passing inspection, and we handle all of it. Water is

the other repeat offender: a flooded basement or a long roof leak can quietly ruin a panel, and a water-damaged panel is a fire risk even after it looks dry.

When a panel is the casualty, whether from water, fire, or age finally catching up, you're in replacement territory, and that's a decision worth making with full information rather than at midnight. Our panel upgrade cost guide breaks down that $2,500 to $7,500 range in detail, and if your home has a Federal Pacific or Zinsco panel, the emergency you just had is often the argument for replacing it on your schedule instead of its schedule.

How to keep an emergency from costing more

The cheapest emergency is the one you catch early. The warning signs are usually there first: a breaker that keeps tripping, lights that flicker when appliances start, a faint warm-plastic smell you keep almost ignoring. Booking a service appointment on a Tuesday afternoon when you first notice comes with none of the drama.

Once something has failed: flip the main breaker off if you can do it safely, never touch a downed line or a wet panel, and take photos once things are safe, because documentation helps if an insurance claim follows. Then make the call, and let the phone consultation guide you until we arrive.

What you get with Smiley Electric

When you call our emergency line you reach a local Portland company, owner-operated by a Master Electrician with more than 20 years in the trade, not a national call center reading a script. Smiley Electric is licensed, bonded, and insured under Oregon CCB #227116, our line is answered 24/7, and every emergency call gets the same treatment.

- [ ] Our $295 Electrical Service Appointment, the standing rate on our pricing page.
- [ ] A plain-language explanation of what failed and how dangerous it actually is.
- [ ] Repair options with upfront pricing before any work begins, and no repairs without your approval.
- [ ] Permits, inspection, and utility coordination handled when the repair needs them.
- [ ] Follow-up after the work and a one-year warranty.

Frequently asked questions

How much does an emergency electrician cost in Portland?

Getting a technician on-site is our $295 Electrical Service Appointment: it includes up to the first hour of labor for troubleshooting and minor repairs, and anything bigger gets an upfront price before work proceeds. The repair itself is quoted upfront, in writing, before any work begins. Small component failures sit at the low end; a full panel replacement generally runs $2,500 to $7,500 in Portland.

What happens when I call about an electrical emergency?

We start on the phone right away, and if it is genuinely urgent we get a technician to you as quickly as we can. On site it works like any service appointment, at the same $295 whatever the hour: the first hour of labor covers troubleshooting and minor repairs, and anything bigger gets an upfront price before we proceed. Nothing proceeds without your approval, whatever the hour.

Do electricians come out for free?

A ballpark estimate for planned projects is free by phone or photo. When something is broken, a technician comes out on our $295 Electrical Service Appointment: it includes up to the first hour of labor for troubleshooting and minor repairs, and anything bigger gets an upfront price first. No repairs are performed without your approval, so you never get a surprise repair bill.

What should I do while waiting for an emergency electrician?

If you see smoke or flames, leave the building and call 911 first. Otherwise: flip the main breaker off if you can reach it safely, unplug what you can, never touch a downed line, a wet panel, or anything that's sparking, and keep people and pets away from the affected area. Our phone consultation starts as soon as you call and we'll walk you through it until we arrive.

Is a burning smell worth an emergency call, or am I overreacting?

A burning or hot-plastic smell from an outlet, switch, or panel is always worth the call, day or night. It usually means a connection or component is overheating, which is how electrical fires start. You are not overreacting. Turn the circuit off if you can identify it, and call immediately.

How fast can you get to my home in Portland?

Our emergency line is answered around the clock, the phone consultation starts immediately, and we dispatch as quickly as the situation and the metro allow. While we're en route you'll already know what it costs to have us there: the $295 Electrical Service Appointment, with up to the first hour of labor included and anything bigger priced upfront.

Sources

1. Outdoor Safety, Portland General Electric. https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/safety/outdoor-safety
2. Electrical Safety (safety tip sheet), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/project/storefront/catalog/files/safety-tip-sheets/electricalsafetytips.pdf
3. Troubleshooting Home Power Problems, Portland General Electric. https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/why-is-my-power-out/home-faqs
4. Contractor License Search, Oregon Construction Contractors Board. https://search.ccb.state.or.us/search/

> **Need a licensed electrician in the Portland area?**
> Call Smiley Electric at (503) 484-7556 (Mon–Sat, 7am–5pm) or visit smileyelectric.net/contact. For sparks, smoke, a burning smell or a hot panel, turn off the power if it is safe and call right away.

Reviewed by Joshua Smiley, owner & master electrician, Smiley Electric. Last reviewed November 13, 2026. Online version: smileyelectric.net/emergency-electrician-cost-portland-oregon/. General information, not a substitute for an on-site inspection.

Cite this guide: Smiley Electric. “Emergency electrician cost in Portland, Oregon: what you'll pay when it can't wait.” smileyelectric.net/emergency-electrician-cost-portland-oregon/. Last reviewed November 13, 2026. You are welcome to quote, print or share this guide with credit to Smiley Electric and a link to smileyelectric.net/emergency-electrician-cost-portland-oregon/.