



For Immediate Release  
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December 20, 2022

## Winter Storm Leaves More than 9,000 Members without Power

More than 90 workers assisted Barron Electric Cooperative crews with restoration efforts. Crews began restoration efforts on the evening of Wednesday, December 14, into Thursday morning and continued through the evening of Sunday, December 18. Dense, heavy snow weighed down trees and power lines. Extended clean-up efforts will continue even after power restoration. Crews from Allmakee Clayton, MiEnergy, Rice Lake Utilities, Barron Utilities, Cumberland Utilities, Spooner Utilities, Jolma, Polk-Burnett Electric, PUSH, and Zielies Tree Service came to their aid. Outages may be anticipated later this week based on the predicted weather forecast.

Members' safety, health, and well-being will always be a top priority. Electricity is an essential element to maintain many homes and lives, so restoration is vital. Crews always try to work as quickly and as safely as possible to restore outages, however, the drop in temperatures made working efficiently even more crucial during this past storm.

Remember to stay away from downed electric lines. Always assume they are energized. Don't call 911 to report an outage; call 911 only if there is an immediate danger, like a downed power line. Barron Electric Cooperative members should call 1-866-258-8722 to report their outage.

### Outage preparation tips:

- Keep a 3-5 day supply of drinking water in plastic bottles. Plan on at least 1 gallon of water per person, per day.
- Store a manual can opener with enough nonperishable foods for 3 to 5 days. Canned meats, tuna fish, and peanut butter are good foods to store. Don't forget food for pets!
- Conserve water by using paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Use a grill for outdoor cooking.
- Coordinate with neighbors for care of the elderly and disabled who are living alone.
- Maintain a supply of prescriptions, nonprescription drugs, vitamins and special dietary foods.
- Have first-aid kits in your home and car.
- Make sure you have cold weather clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags.
- Use flashlights and other battery-operated lighting instead of candles.
- Keep fire extinguishers fully charged.
- Fill your bathtub with water for bathroom use before the storm (if you have a well).

### Barron Electric's Right-of-Way Program

Barron Electric's Right-of-Way program helps reduce contact between trees and power lines. Barron Electric hires contractors to clear trees and brush in sixty-one townships on a rotational schedule of every five to six years depending on the county. This program aids in reliability.

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