

Standing under a tree is probably not a good idea this morning, as the tons of ice that formed on trees and anything exposed yesterday may find its way to the ground early today. Above freezing temps, a good bit of wind, and a good bit of sunshine should begin the clearing of ice from the trees. In spite of the ice on trees, poles, utility lines and anything else outside, Blue Ridge Electric actually caught up with all their outages just as darkness fell. There were scattered outages late into the evening and overnight, but few, and responded to quickly by utility crews. BREMCO said late yesterday that their linemen worked through the ice and rain, and that outages were primarily in Caldwell and Watauga counties, although outages occurred all across the cooperative's service area. At 4:30 p.m. yesterday, outages are down to 1,290 with the majority in the higher elevations of Watauga County where temperatures hadn't risen above freezing, and two hours later, all power was restored. According to BREMCO, outages began around 6 a.m. yesterday, starting in Caldwell County where temperatures were below freezing until mid-day. A total of 5,000 Blue Ridge Electric members were affected at different periods throughout the day. Line technicians, member service representatives and other employees are ready to respond to member needs should outages continue. Blue Ridge Electric encourages members to keep the cooperative's PowerLine outage reporting number handy in case outages occur: 1-800-448-2383.