

## Blue Ridge Electric Update

Written by Adam Hicks

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Blue Ridge Electric has placed their crews on high alert because of the winter weather. Public relations director for BREMCO Renee Whitener released a statement this afternoon to let customers know how the co-op is prepared to handle the ice storm.

Whitener said, "Employees with Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation are on high alert status should power outages occur as a result of ice accumulation in the cooperative's service area in Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties.

"Blue Ridge line technicians have been patrolling the area today, especially along the Blue Ridge Parkway where weather reports are predicting a possible ¼ inch of ice. This amount of ice accumulation can present problems for power lines or lead to falling trees and limbs.

"In addition to their own crews, Blue Ridge Electric has more than 20 crews from across the state on standby, ready to provide assistance if power outages begin occurring.

"As a safety reminder, downed power lines can still be energized and therefore dangerous or even deadly! The cooperative reminds members to stay far away from downed power lines and to report them immediately to Blue Ridge Electric.

"Blue Ridge Electric serves some 73,000 members in Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Avery and Alexander counties."

As of 4:50 this afternoon, BREMCO is not reporting any power outages. You can check out BREMCO's outage map at <http://bremco.maps.sienatech.com/>. Remember, if you're a BREMCO customer and you are out of power; call the outage line at 1-800-448-2383.