

Know How To Stay Safe *After* Storms

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake — they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

“When you’re dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind,” says Safe Electricity’s Molly Hall. “But it’s the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flood-damaged area or enter a storm-damaged building.”

When outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact BARC.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.



Other precautions following storms include:

- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or BARC. Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.
- Be alert at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as four-way stops before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call BARC to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to replace them. Do

not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

- If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.
- If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed, or connect appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines — what is known as “backfeed.” Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

BARC offers GenerLink, a meter collar device installed on your electric meter that allows you to easily connect a generator to your home during outages. With GenerLink™ you simply plug in the generator and use your household main circuit panel to select the circuits and appliances you want to operate based on the generator capacity.

Visit barcelectric.com/generlink to find out more.



BARC Closed for Memorial Day

BARC Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day. If you have an outage during this time, please use SmartHub or call 1-800-846-2272.

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 264

Millboro, VA 24460-0264

1-800-846-2272

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

barcelectric.com

barcconnects.net

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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

Local Page Editor
Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BARC Communities

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Billy Reid and Meggan Ayers



Billy was promoted to director of broadband for BARC Connects. This promotion is a testament to his dedication and commitment to delivering the very best wi-fi experience to our local communities and businesses.



Meggan was promoted to accounting manager. Ayers started at the co-op in 2021 as a financial accountant.



After-School Program

Students receive power line safety demo

BARC Electric Cooperative hosted the Maury River Middle School after-school program last month at our Highland Belle office.

The students received a power line safety demo from COO, Chris Botulinski. Chris explained the dangers of having trees and objects too close to power lines.

Lineworkers Skyler Merchant and Derek Smith demonstrated their pole climbing skills and discussed how they work with certain tools and equipment in difficult and inclement conditions to get the lights back on.

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Notice of Meetings to Select Nominees for Board of Directors, District 1 and 5

Pursuant to Section 4 of the bylaws of BARC Electric Cooperative, the Board of Directors have called District Meetings to select nominees for the Board of Directors for Districts 1 and 5. The meeting times and locations are as follows:

District 1 – May 19, 2025, 7 p.m.
New Providence Presbyterian Church, 1208
New Providence Rd., Raphine, VA 24472

Incumbent: C. Michael Sandridge
District 5 – May 23, 2025, 3 p.m.
Bolar Ruritan Club, 38 Bolar Lane,
Hightown, VA 24456

Incumbent: Kae Zulager
To determine the district in which you reside, please refer to the mailing label on the front cover of this magazine. In the numbers above your name is a two-digit number starting with “BA.” This is your district. Example:

BA 01
Mr. John Doe
Route 3, Box 100
Anywhere, USA 20156

This member resides in District 1. If your number is not legible or you are unsure of your district, please call us at 1-800-846-2272.

The election of directors will take place at the Annual Member Meeting on July 16, 2025. For your convenience, we are reprinting the qualifications for directors (section 4.3) and the nominating process (section 4.4). Again, if you have any questions regarding the process or location, please contact the office at 1-800-846-2272.

SECTION 4.3 – Director Qualifications. Any Director or Director candidate must comply with this Section.

A. Director Qualifications. A Director or Director candidate must:

1. Be a natural person;
2. Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
3. Be a Member in good standing residing in the Director District from which the Director is elected or chosen or be a duly authorized officer, director or employee of a non-natural person Member located in the Director District from which the Director is being elected.

B. Director Qualifications.

1. While a Director, and during the one

year immediately prior to becoming a Director, a Director or Director candidate must not be, nor have been:

- a. A Close Relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year;
- b. A Close Relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative officer, employee, agent, or representative;
- c. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Director; other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year; or
- d. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity other than an entity in which the Cooperative possessed an ownership interest (other than an entity in which the Cooperative possesses an ownership interest);

i. Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative;

ii. Selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to substantial number of Members; or

iii. Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

2. No current or former employee of the Cooperative shall be eligible to serve on the Cooperative’s Board of Directors.

SECTION 4.4 – Nominations. Not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which Directors are to be elected, the Board shall call a separate meeting of the Members of each district in which the term of the Director serving such district is to expire (“District Meeting”), at a suitable place in each district for the purpose of selecting one person as a Director candidate to represent the Members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each Member located in such district as provided in Section 3.3 of Article III and shall indicate the district to which such Member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a Director are to be made at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice

of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board or the entire membership.

The District Meeting shall be called to order by the Director representing the District or by another designated representative of the Board, or in his absence, by any Member residing within the District. The Members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a Director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen Members residing in the district present in person at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for Director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any Member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming, but in no case less than five minutes. Candidates must be Members residing in the district and must possess the Director Qualifications specified in Section 4.3; A, B and C of Article IV of these Bylaws. In the event a quorum is not present for any one of the District Meetings provided for herein, the Director currently serving for the district shall be declared the official nominee for the district.

Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. The minutes of such District Meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated at the District Meeting and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the secretary and the chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five days after such District Meeting. In the event a quorum is not present at a District Meeting, there shall be no minutes taken. Instead, the Director currently serving the district shall prepare a statement to the effect that a meeting took place and a quorum was not present. Said statement shall be promptly provided to the Secretary.