



# RECNEWS

March 2019

## RELIABILITY: Responding to Top Causes of Power Outages

Here's a look at the most common causes of power outages and how Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) works to address them:



Downed trees are the No. 1 cause of power outages. To reduce outages, REC's foresters and certified arborists work with contractor employees to clear more than 1,500 miles of right of way each year.



Snakes, birds and especially squirrels can cause power outages. To keep the animals safe - and electricity flowing - REC adds coverings to transformers and other apparatus to keep critters out and the lights on. Last year, REC installed nearly 5,000 animal guards.



REC follows an underground line-replacement program to identify and replace underground cables before aluminum failure causes an outage.



In 2018, REC installed nearly 600 lightning "arrestors" to protect insulators and conductors from lightning strikes.



Sometimes there are multiple causes across REC's 17,000 miles of line. REC works year-round to upgrade poles, wires and related equipment.



## Be in the Know: Sign Up for Outage Text Alerts

The lights go out and questions arise: Does REC know my power is out? Is this a big outage or just one affecting me or my street? What happened? How long will the outage last?

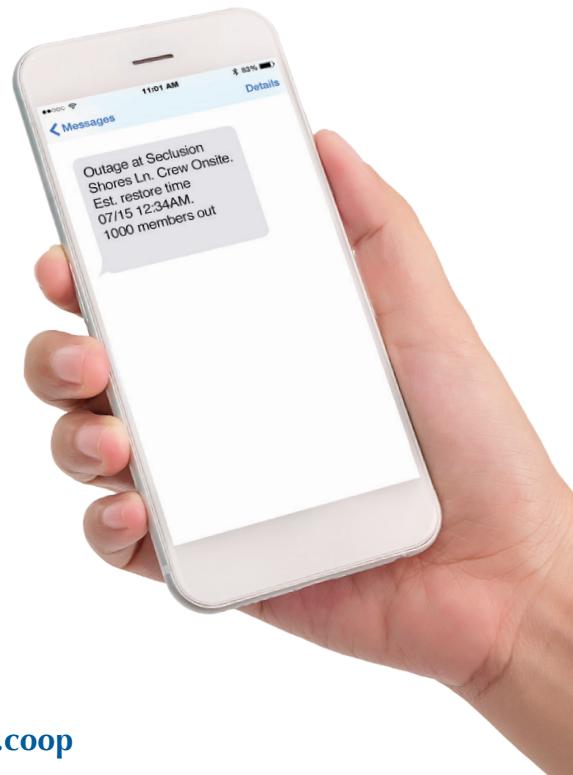
With outage alerts, most of those answers are sent directly to your mobile phone. Member-owners enrolled in Outage Text Alerts receive messages when:

- REC is aware of an outage in your area
- A crew has been dispatched
- An estimated restoration time is known
- Power is restored
- A cause of the outage is determined.

### SIGN UP TODAY!

In MyREC SmartHub, click on the Notifications tab.

If you don't already have MyREC SmartHub, visit [myrec.smarthub.coop](http://myrec.smarthub.coop) and create your profile – it's simple, fast and free!



## Can You (Safely) Dig It?

April is National Safe Digging Month. Whether you're looking forward to building a new deck or just planting a tree, it's always important to know what's below the surface. Visit [va811.com](http://va811.com) to fill out your online ticket to safe digging, and remember:

- Allow required time for underground utility markings
- Respect the markings
- And excavate carefully

Learn more: [va811.com](http://va811.com)





The Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) 2019 Director Elections nomination process officially opened March 1. Director elections will be conducted this year in the following three regions:

- **Region I - the counties of Frederick, Shenandoah & portions of Page, Warren & Rappahannock.** Currently represented by Michael W. Lindsay
- **Region VI - Caroline County.** Currently represented by Linda R. Gray
- **Region VII - Louisa County.** Currently represented by J. Mark Wood

**REC members who desire to become a candidate must reside in the region to which they wish to be elected, meet director qualifications, and complete the nomination petition process.**

**Look for additional details about the 2019 Director Elections online at [www.myrec.coop/boardelections](http://www.myrec.coop/boardelections) or in the March/April issue of *Cooperative Living* magazine. To obtain your nomination petition and nomination packet, please visit, [www.myrec.coop/boardelections](http://www.myrec.coop/boardelections), email [board-elections@myrec.coop](mailto:board-elections@myrec.coop) or call 1-800-552-3904.**

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**Director elections will take place on Aug. 22, 2019, at REC's Annual Meeting. The nomination process must be completed no later than 5 p.m. May 2, 2019.**

