October 2026 - Issue 308

Battle River POWER COOP

MEMBER OWNED • COMMUNITY POWERED



Responding to a Major Windstorm

Crews worked around the clock to safely restore power after one of the largest storm-related outage events in recent years.

Extreme winds swept across Battle River Power Coop's service area in mid-October, causing widespread damage, including broken poles, downed power lines, damaged transformers, and several fires caused by trees contacting power lines.

Our crews worked around the clock to repair damage, restore power, and respond to emergencies across multiple communities. While restoring power quickly is important, every decision made during an outage starts with safety. Thank you to the local fire departments and emergency responders who helped keep people safe throughout the storm.



Thank you to our members for their patience and understanding while repairs were underway. We are incredibly proud of our crews, operations staff, and emergency responders for the hard work and dedication they showed throughout a challenging weekend.

What Members Are Saying

> *Awesome commitment! Thankful for your team efforts and how you were able to handle such a difficult situation in such a safe effective manner. Thank you!*
>
> Jeanna P.

> *Thank you for your hard working crews.*
>
> Tanya B.

> *Thank you to the hard working crews and ppl, you guys are amazing, you got it working so much faster then expected after that surprise storm!*
>
> Ruby R.

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BRPC Incident Response – Sprayer Contacts Secondary Power Line

Recently, a BRPC member was preparing to put away a field sprayer when he received a call about a nearby combine fire. After helping his neighbour respond to the emergency, he returned to his yard to finish the task.

Unaware that one section of the sprayer boom had not been folded in completely, the member drove forward and contacted a three-wire secondary power line. The contact caused one conductor to break and pull free from its connection point on the transformer pole.

The member immediately shut off the breaker serving the line and contacted BRPC to report the incident. Before attempting any repairs, he also called to confirm whether he should reconnect the conductor himself. BRPC advised him not to touch the electrical connection and dispatched a Powerline Technician to safely complete the repairs and restore service.

What should you do in this situation?

- **Stop immediately if your equipment contacts a power line** and assess the situation from a safe location.
- **Report all power line contacts to BRPC,** even if the damage appears minor.
- **Never attempt to reconnect electrical conductors or equipment yourself.** BRPC crews are trained and equipped to perform these repairs safely.
- **Take a moment to reassess after an interruption or emergency.** Returning to a task after being distracted can increase the risk of mistakes.
- **Be mindful of equipment height and width.** Modern agricultural equipment is larger than ever, making awareness of overhead power lines increasingly important.
- **When in doubt, call.** Asking a question before taking action is always safer than making assumptions around electrical equipment.





Meal to the Field Returns for Harvest Season

This fall, Battle River Power Coop was pleased to celebrate harvest season with our annual Meal to the Field program.

Ten member families were selected to receive a meal during one of the busiest times of the year. Seven winners chose a gift card that allowed them to enjoy a meal when it best fit their schedule, while three families welcomed us to their farms for an in-person delivery.

Whether we were meeting crews in the field, visiting around the shop, or sitting down for a quick lunch after a long day of harvest, each visit was a reminder of the hardworking farm families who help make our rural communities strong.

Thank you to all of our Meal to the Field winners for taking part, and for welcoming us into your operations. We always appreciate the opportunity to connect with our members and learn more about the people and communities we are proud to serve.



Ron and Merrilynn Bratrud welcomed us to their farm for a Meal to the Field delivery.



The Komarnisky family welcomed us for lunch as they celebrated the end of another harvest season.



Unlike most meal deliveries, this one happened right in the field, where Merle King and family took a break from harvest for lunch.

NOTICE:

Admin Fee Increase

The Battle River Power Coop board has approved an increase in our Administration Fee to offset rising business costs. As of January 1, 2027 this fee will increase from $7.00 per month to $7.50 per month.

Message from the Board

The severe windstorm that moved through our service area in October resulted in widespread damage and one of the largest storm restoration efforts our system has faced in recent years.

We know extended outages are frustrating, especially when they occur unexpectedly and affect multiple communities at once. We appreciate the patience and understanding shown by members while repairs were underway.

The Board is extremely proud of the way BRPC employees responded throughout the event. Crews and operations staff worked around the clock to assess damage, make repairs, and restore power wherever it was possible to do so safely.

At the same time, major storm events are not always resolved by the efforts of a single utility. Because BRPC operates as part of an interconnected electrical system, some restorations depended on repairs being completed on neighbouring utility infrastructure before power could be returned to members. While those circumstances can affect restoration timelines, our employees remained in close communication with the other utility companies and worked diligently to restore service as quickly as conditions allowed.

We were encouraged by the positive feedback received from members following the storm. The many messages of thanks and support were a meaningful recognition of the hard work put in by crews and staff throughout the restoration effort.

As a Board, we recognize that events of this scale provide valuable opportunities to review both successes and opportunities for improvement. We are confident our team will continue to apply those lessons as we work to provide safe, reliable service to our members.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to our employees, local fire departments, emergency responders, and members for helping our communities weather the storm safely.

Stay Up to Date with Battle River Power Coop

If you have had any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address or wish to add other contact details to your account, please connect with us toll-free at 1.877.428.3972 or email: brpc@brpower.coop and we will ensure your account is updated.

Other ways you can stay in the loop with Battle River Power Coop:

- **Visit our website www.brpower.coop.** The website offers on-line account access for members to review their accounts.
- Battle River Power Coop also communicates on popular social media platforms – **Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.**
- **View outage updates** on our website. Our outage update page provides the most current information on outages in our service area.

Want to help others learn about our Cooperative?

Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera, click on the link, and leave us a review!

RATE OF LAST RESORT

The Rate of Last Resort (RoLR) is a fixed monthly rate set at $0.13000 per kWh until the end of December 2026. Detailed information on the RoLR is available on: www.brpower.coop.

Members are free to purchase natural gas services or electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta). ***Code of Conduct Regulation: Advertising Section 7(1).***

BATTLE RIVER POWER COOP IS AVAILABLE FOR POWER TROUBLE CALLS 24/7/365 **CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.877.428.3972**