

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## Our commitment to affordable power



Brooks Shoemaker  
General Manager

**EACH MONTH** you budget for your phone, electricity, house and car payments. Generally you know how much each bill will cost and plan spending accordingly. But what if you couldn't control your energy costs? What if, each month, they climbed beyond your reach?

At Bedford Rural Electric, we deliver affordable power to you every day. It's

why electric cooperatives were created, and it's a commitment we plan to keep. But national energy legislation could force prices higher than many consumers can afford, effectively taking us back to the dawn of the 20th century.


In the 1920s and early 1930s, central station electric service was a luxury that only 10 percent of rural residents nationwide enjoyed — and those who had power paid dearly for it. When Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Warm Springs, Ga., in 1924, he was dismayed to find electricity for his small cottage cost four times what it did at his estate in New York. After being elected president, he created the federal Rural Electrification Administration by executive order to make power affordable for all Americans. As a result, electric co-ops were born.

Innovative line construction techniques pioneered by cooperative engineers, coupled with the competitive pressure we placed on investor-owned utilities to serve rural areas, slashed the cost of providing electric service in the countryside by at least 50 percent. In the 70 years since, we have established a track record of stable and affordable electric rates — proof that we're committed to keeping electricity bills within your means.

But the struggle for affordable power that farmers and their neighbors fought in the 1930s is surfacing again. Today's electricity supplies will not be able to keep pace with future demand. Constructing new generating facilities is an expensive proposition. That issue and the effects of inflation and continually rising commodity prices are going to force electric rates up in the coming decades. Now, our elected officials, the members of Congress, seem ready to act on climate change legislation. Cooperative experts predict that regardless of what the final legislation looks like, the result is going to be significantly higher electricity bills for our members.

Electric cooperatives are needed once again to make sure affordable power will be available in the future to meet our needs. Our job, on your behalf, is to work closely with Congress to find the best solutions for addressing climate change while keeping the price of electricity within your means.

Bedford Rural Electric remains committed to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable power — but we need your help. Through the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots awareness campaign, co-op members across the nation are speaking out about the importance of keeping electric bills affordable. The new energy and climate change policies being debated in Congress could turn your monthly budget upside down. Now is the time to ask our elected officials: Will you please work with electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity?

Working together, we can keep this from happening. Visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) today and send an email to your elected representatives sharing your concerns. 



## Dave Cubbison is emergency services director

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

**THE BEDFORD COUNTY** Department of Emergency Services, previously housed in the basement of the ambulance building, has been relocated to an up-to-date office in the Bedford County Courthouse.

David E. Cubbison, director for the past two and a half years, says the modern equipment was purchased at no cost to the county.

"We searched for grants and were able to get them," he explains of the efficient, computer-operated 9-1-1 system.

Dave, better known as, "Cubby," gives tremendous credit to Pamela Corley, 9-1-1 coordinator, and Tammy Lashinsky, mapping/GIS (geographic information system), for the efficiency of the office. And, he is grateful for his volunteer assistant, Dustin Miller.

Prior to his appointment as director, Cubby served six and a half years with the county's emergency services.

"This is a large county with a low population," he says. "Most of our emergencies are weather-related, but with the turnpike, we could have any number of incidents."

An example of the high volume of calls occurred in February during the high wind storms.

"We received 268 emergency calls in eight hours," he says. "That was one call every 1:45 minutes. We have two people per eight-hour shift, but the employees know when there is going to be a heavy volume of calls and just show up. They love what they do and they do it well."

Dave recalls a dire emergency situation in 2004 when Everett had three floods from Hurricanes Charlie, Frances and Ivan.

"There were 26 homes destroyed in the county that year," Dave recalls.

The last flood occurred on Sept. 19, 2004, and it took until the following January to complete the paperwork.

**TEAM PLAYERS:** Members of the emergency services team at work on a Friday afternoon include, from left, Karen Waybright, Sherry Strayer, Dave Cubbison, Pam Corley and Harry Corley.

His first trial after taking over as director was the Founder's Crossing fire, which affected 150 small businesses. Local artist Kevin Kutz and Liz Hess, owner of a children's gymnastic business, lost everything. Other affected businesses included all of the vendors located within Founder's Crossing. Emergency services personnel coordinated recovery efforts between the Small Business Administration and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association.

As the director, Cubbison acts as the department's public information officer and is available for educational programs and presentations. If an emergency occurs, it is the director's duty to respond, assess the situation and determine priorities. He is the one to make

recommendations regarding public protective actions while coordinating disaster damage assessment, recovery efforts and mitigation efforts.

“We not only have our own emergencies to deal with,” he continues, “we are also a host county should a reactor explode or a severe turnpike accident happen.”

Each of the county’s six school districts must have an emergency plan, as well as the day care centers, municipalities, prisons, dam owners and the hospital. Training programs with local level coordinators are ongoing.

Cubbison came to the office with a long list of experiences, including experience as a fireman, an emergency medical technician, a CPR first aid instructor, a technician, and director of planning and training at the Bedford United Methodist Church.

A Bedford Rural Electric patron, Dave resides in Bedford with his wife, Linda, and children, Abigail and Noah. ☀



**TEAM WORK:** Karen Waybright and Sherry Strayer go to work as an emergency call comes in to the emergency services center at the Bedford County Courthouse.



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9. Bedford Rural Electric offers a \$250 rebate per ton of capacity installed

**Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
 "People You Can Count On" Phone: 623-5101  
 A TruGreen Energy Company www.bedfordrec.com

**OFFICE CLOSING**  
 Bedford REC's office will be closed on Friday, April 10, for Good Friday.

## Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs:  Medical  Farming/Livestock

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.*

## TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

### In case of trouble ...

First ..... Check your fuses or circuit breakers.

Second .... Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.

Third ..... **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**  
**OR call 800/808-2732 during office hours**

(Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

### Alternate numbers ...

Scott Shook .....	Week of April 6 .....	623-2395
John Karns .....	Week of April 13 .....	623-2630
Troy Mock .....	Week of April 20 .....	276-9759
Greg Miller .....	Week of April 27 .....	839-0037
Al Hileman .....	Week of May 4 .....	766-9971
Jim Seymour .....	Week of May 11 .....	839-2848

### In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood .....	Bedford .....	623-6121
James Clark .....	Everett .....	652-9791
Mark Rowan .....	Bedford .....	623-7890

*During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.*