



RELEASED

October 1, 2005 9 am

(Updated 2 pm)

(* Outage totals will be updated tonight.)

Sam Houston EC Rita Recovery Progressing Steadily

LIVINGSTON – As of 8 am Saturday, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative has restored power to more than 33,000 members. Significant progress has been made in the areas west of U.S. Hwy 59. To the east in the counties of Tyler, Hardin and Liberty, crews are working at a rapid pace to clear trees and debris and to rebuild downed power lines.

After the tremendous storm, all of the Cooperative's 64,000 meters were without power. With an army of more than 1,200 workers, the lights have been steadily coming on across our 10-county service area.

As Sam Houston Electric is feverishly rebuilding lines, Entergy is doing the same on its transmission lines. (Entergy's transmission lines feed electricity into Sam Houston EC's distribution system.)

If your power remains off when electricity returns to your area, your location may have a blown fuse or damaged service line. Rest assured, you've not been forgotten. Simply call 800-458-0381 to report the situation and a crew will be assigned to your case as soon as possible.

Angelina County 1313 of 1347 have been restored

Angelina County has been declared a major disaster area. Diboll customers are on line. The 34 outages that remain are in the Huntington area and are being addressed by service crews.

Hardin County 0 of 4151 have been restored

Hardin County was devastated by Rita and has been declared a disaster area. Lines will be rebuilt as the tree removal process progresses. Sam Houston EC serves in the areas of Sour Lake, Spurger, Honey Island, Hardin and Kountze. As workers finish in other parts of the Sam Houston EC territory, they are joining others already in Hardin County to speed the process of recovery.

Liberty 736 of 9712 have been restored

Liberty County was devastated by Rita and has been declared a disaster area. Lines will be rebuilt as the tree removal process progresses. Sam Houston EC serves in the areas of Long John, Batson, Rye, and Tarkington. As of 7 pm Friday, Sam Houston EC substations in the Liberty County area were energized. Not all feeders coming out of the substations will come on at the same time. Sam Houston EC will continue adding load throughout the weekend.

Feeders from the Tarkington, Rye and Hightower substations are being energized. Keep in mind that there may be some small areas in which repairs still are needed as well as some individual cases. Service crews have been dedicated to that task.

Montgomery 5893 of 8473 have been restored.

Although initially thought to have escaped the worst of Rita, Montgomery County has been declared a major disaster area. Due to high winds and trees that damage facilities, repairs to Entergy's transmission line to that area are required. Two of the main substations in the county, Caney Creek and Peach Creek, were energized. The Cooperative will continue adding load to these areas this weekend. However, not all feeders coming out of the station will come on at the same time. If your neighbors' lights come on and yours do not, you may have a blown fuse or damaged line at your specific location. Be assured that you are not forgotten. Just call 800-458-0381 and report the situation and a service crew will make the necessary repairs as soon as possible.

Polk 14,208 of 19,481 have been restored

Polk County was also hit extremely hard by Rita, especially on the eastern side. Saturday, it was declared a major disaster area. Restoration efforts have progressed well, as many areas surrounding Livingston are now back on line. Also coming back on are Goodrich, Blanchard, Onalaska and Bold Springs. Keep in mind that there may be some small areas in which repairs still are needed as well as individual cases. Service crews have been dedicated to that task.

An insulator with a hairline fracture is being replaced this afternoon (Saturday) at the substation near the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation. Repairs should be completed this afternoon. Some areas, including Indian Springs, suffered severe damage and crews are still clearing trees and rebuilding lines. Other areas will be energized after the insulator is replaced today.

San Jacinto 6213 of 9633 have been restored

San Jacinto County meters were among the first to be restored to service. Coldspring and Wolf Creek are on, although there are some isolated cases. Shepherd and Staley are online and the Cooperative will continue to add load this weekend.

Feeders from the Staley substation near Waterwood are being energized. Keep in mind that there may be some small areas in which repairs still are needed as well as some individual cases. Service crews have been dedicated to that task.

Trinity 1414 of 1806 have been restored

The Carlisle substation has been energized, and 78% of Sam Houston EC members are receiving power. The remainder are localized cases being addressed by service crews in the area.

Tyler 0 of 5446 have been restored

Tyler County was devastated by Rita and has been declared a disaster area. Lines will be rebuilt as the tree removal process progresses. Sam Houston EC serves in the areas of Hillister, Woodville, Chester, Ivanhoe, Fork Creek and Beech Creek. These areas have thousands of downed trees that are being removed. As workers finish in other parts of the Sam Houston EC territory, they are joining others already in Tyler County to speed the process of recovery.

Walker 3676 of 4042 have been restored

Walker County was one of the first areas to be restored. However, curtailments conducted by Entergy have affected these members for several days. Additional transmission is being added as Entergy repairs damaged transmission lines, which will help reduce the need for curtailments.

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