



RELEASED

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Sam Houston EC encourages members to be safe

LIVINGSTON – Sam Houston Electric Cooperative consumers may experience electric power outages as a result of tornados, high winds, lightning and flash flooding that could be associated with Hurricane Rita’s landfall this weekend. Where this storm makes landfall will ultimately determine the extent of damage and hazardous conditions, and of course, the extent of any inconvenience to residents.

Members in the 10 counties served by Sam Houston EC are encouraged to consider electric safety during and after the storm.

Generators

If used improperly, a back-up generator can make life a lot more dangerous!

If you plan to use a portable back-up generator for temporary electric power, follow the manufacturer instructions to protect you and your family. Also, **DO NOT** connect the generator to the house wiring unless you have had a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system, including the installation of a transfer switch to isolate the generator from the electric utility service. Without the transfer switch, the power from the generator will “back feed” through the transformer and raise the voltage to 7,200 volts, a level that can easily kill any Line Technician trying to restore the power down the line.

In addition, when the power is restored, it may cause an electrical fire and/or destroy the generator.

Downed Power Lines

Assume that any downed power line is “live.” If power lines are lying on the ground or dangling near the ground, do not touch the lines. Notify us at (936) 327-5711 in Livingston; (936) 653-5400 in Coldspring; (409) 283-8251 in Woodville, (800) 458-0381 for long distance or local authorities as soon as possible that the lines have been damaged, or that the lines are down. Do not attempt to move or repair the power lines.

Wiring and Appliances Exposed to Water

If you have appliances or equipment exposed to water, never assume they are safe to use after they have dried. Before you try to use any electrical appliance that has been exposed to water, take it to a qualified service technician. The item may be fine, it may need reconditioning, or it might require replacement.

Phone Lines and Outage Reporting

With a storm of this magnitude, phone lines can get very busy. Rest assured that—if this hurricane affects the area—we have crews working to restore your electric service and all phone lines are manned around the clock. We appreciate your patience and support during this time.

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative serves more than 50,000 members in Polk, San Jacinto, Montgomery, Liberty, Walker, Tyler, Hardin, Trinity, Angelina and Jasper counties.