



RELEASED

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Sam Houston Electric lines up restoration crews

LIVINGSTON – With Hurricane Rita scheduled to make landfall early Saturday on the upper Texas coast, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative has made arrangements with other utilities and contractors regarding restoration crews.

At this time, the Cooperative has commitments for 100 line crews and 50 rights-of-way crews in addition to its regular Line Technician staff, Construction Manager Bill Townley said Friday morning. Sam Houston EC has three staging areas, located in Woodville, Livingston and Coldspring. Additionally, Sam Houston Electric officials plan to make damage assessments as early as Sunday.

Sam Houston EC will make every effort to restore power in a timely manner as soon as it is safe to do so. Please follow these tips to ensure your safety.

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.

Flashlights

Use flashlights to illuminate your home. If used improperly, candles can be knocked down and cause a fire.