



RELEASED

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Rita affects more than 41,000 members

LIVINGSTON – Hurricane Rita began to affect East Texas 6 p.m. Friday as the outer bands began producing outages in the Eastern portion of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's 10-county service area.

As of 10 a.m. Saturday, 41,686 members have been affected. Entergy Texas has also reported that three 138-kV transmission lines that feed electricity into the Cooperative's distribution system are out of service. Counties most affected are Polk, Tyler, Hardin and Liberty.

At this time, Sam Houston EC is preparing to make damage assessments to its system. Line Technicians and right-of-way crews are being staged and placed into action.

The Cooperative also reminds you to not touch downed power lines as they could still be energized and could cause a harmful shock. Instead, please call your nearest branch office in Livingston (936) 327-5711, Woodville (409) 284-8251, Coldspring (936) 653-5400 or long distance at (800) 458-0381 to report this situation.

Friday morning, the Cooperative implemented its emergency restoration plan. Employees began working 12-hour shifts, the call center is staffed 24-hours a day and contractor contacts were notified that their services are needed immediately. Sam Houston EC has secured 100 contractor crews and 50 right-of-way crews to assist in the restoration effort in addition to normal cooperative staff. Line Technicians that had been assisting in the Hurricane Katrina restoration effort were called back Thursday in order to help in the effort at home.

Be assured that Sam Houston EC is committed to seeing this restoration process to the end. As your electric cooperative, we will not rest until the last light is turned on.
