



RELEASED

October 4, 2005 9 am

First lights come on in Hardin, Tyler counties

LIVINGSTON – Monday, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative was able to provide power to members in Tyler and Hardin counties since the landfall of Hurricane Rita Sept. 24. Near the Woodville area, 214 members' homes lit up while 169 members around Kountze received power as well.

With the energizing of the Deer substation and the Kountze metering point, this is a turning step the Cooperative believes will be the beginning of a return to normalcy in Southeast Texas. With more than 500 line technicians and tree trimmers in the area along with Entergy Texas restoring transmission services to the area, Sam Houston EC looks to continue to add load in this area.

As of 8 am Tuesday, power has been restored to 49,781 meters, which is 77 percent of the Cooperative's distribution system. There are 14,792 meters with out power, mostly in Hardin, Tyler and Jasper counties.

Most services west of U.S. Hwy 59 have been restored. Cooperative employees have begun the task of calling members to confirm power restoration in Walker, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Angelina and Trinity counties, most of Polk County and parts of Liberty County.

Line crews are working at a rapid pace to clear trees and debris and to rebuild downed power lines in Tyler, Polk, Hardin, Liberty and Jasper counties. Tree removal crews are progressing rapidly through the area and line technicians are quickly rebuilding lines. Entergy is doing the same on its transmission lines. (Entergy's transmission lines feed electricity into Sam Houston EC's distribution system.)

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 coming on steadily across our 10-county service area. At the height of the storm, an estimated 1.5 million Texans were without power. The total figure is now less 250,000 in the Lone Star State.

All 10 of Sam Houston EC counties have now been declared disaster areas. To find out what aid is available to you, please visit www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-FEMA (3362).

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

Angelina County 1347 of 1347 have been restored

Angelina County has been declared a major disaster area. As of Sunday, service to Angelina County Members has been restored. Should you experience an outage, please call 800-458-0381 to report the situation and a crew will be assigned to your case as soon as possible.

Hardin County 169 of 4119 have been restored

Most members who are served by the Kountze metering point had their power restored Monday night.

Hardin County was devastated by Rita and has been declared a disaster area. Lines will be rebuilt as the tree removal process progresses. Entergy is working to restore transmission services to the area. Sam Houston EC serves in the areas of Sour Lake, Spurger, Honey Island, Hardin and Kountze.

Many of the people working to restore power in Hardin County are based in nearby Woodville at a 500-person base camp, ensuring these crews can spend their valuable time working on outage cases rather than driving to a job site.

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 6235 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, all Sam Houston EC substations in the Liberty County area were energized.

Feeders from the Tarkington, Rye, Long John (Dayton area) and Hightower (Cleveland area) substations are energized. There are still pockets of outages in these areas that crew are working to repair as well as some individual outage cases. Service crews have been dedicated to these tasks.

Montgomery 8473 of 8473 have been restored

Although initially thought to have escaped the worst of Hurricane Rita, Montgomery County has been declared a major disaster area. Due to high winds and trees that damaged facilities, repairs to Entergy's transmission line in that area were required.

As of Sunday, service to Montgomery County Members has been restored. Should you experience an outage, please call 800-458-0381 to report the situation and a service crew will be assigned to make the necessary repairs as soon as possible.

Polk 17,551 of 19,481 have been restored

Hurricane Rita hit Polk County extremely hard, 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 with 90 percent of the area receiving power..

The substations that service areas around Corrigan, Indian Village and Indian Springs were energized this weekend. The Cooperative has steadily added load to these areas throughout the day.

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.

The substation that serves the Menard area has not been energized at this time. Efforts to restore transmission services to this substation are progressing.

San Jacinto 9944 of 10,115 have been restored

San Jacinto County meters were among the first to be restored to service. At this time, service to most San Jacinto County members has been restored. If you are still without power, please call 800-458-0381. There may be a blown fuse or a problem with your service drop. Crews are now repairing remaining locations.

The Cooperative is working to restore the last pocket of members in the Shepherd area.

Trinity 1806 of 1806 have been restored

The Carlisle substation has been energized, and Sam Houston EC members are receiving power. Please report any outages to 800-458-0381. Crews have been assigned to repair remaining locations.

Tyler of 5446 have been restored

With the Deer substation coming online Monday, 214 members around Woodville had their service restored. Although there is much construction to do, Sam Houston Electric has a staff of 500 people in the area to facilitate this job.

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

4042 of 4042 have been restored

As of Sunday, power has been restored to most Sam Houston EC Walker County members. Crews are now repairing service to the remaining locations. Please report any further outages to 800-458-0381.