



RELEASED

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Sam Houston EC restores 90 percent of system

LIVINGSTON – Significant progress was made in Hardin County Thursday as Sam Houston Electric Cooperative has energized all substations and metering points in the area. Just 600 members had power this morning, but by 5 p.m., crews had restored power to 2,118 members, which is half of Cooperative's load in this county.

Overall, Sam Houston EC has restored power to 57,745 of its 64,573 meters, which is 90 percent of the system.

Progress was made in Tyler and Liberty counties also. More than 1,000 members in Tyler County are receiving power out of the Deer, Beech Creek and Spurger areas. Beech Creek is carrying half of its normal load at this time. Sam Houston EC continues to work toward restoring power to the Hillister and Fork Creek areas as soon as transmission issues are resolved.

In Liberty County, power has been restored to 9,389 of the Cooperative's 9,712 meters. The 323 remaining outages are in the Rye and Cleveland areas. Crews have been assigned to resolve these cases as quickly as possible.

Tree trimming crews are entering their final stages of work in Hardin and Tyler counties. While crews have been dedicated to connecting the remaining spot outages in Angelina, Polk, San Jacinto, Montgomery, Walker, and Trinity counties, in addition to running routine service orders, Sam Houston EC has shifted its massive restoration efforts to the southeast portion of its vast service territory.

A majority of the workers stationed in and around Livingston have begun heading east each morning to join the 500 line technicians and tree trimmers stationed in Woodville in order to speed up the restoration process.

More than 5,000 poles and 1,500 miles of distribution line has or is in the process of being replaced in what is considered the largest reconstruction job in the Cooperative's 66 year history.

In Texas, an estimated 1.5 million customers in 47 counties were without power at the after Rita. These 47 counties have a total population of 7 million people and are served by 14 investor-

owned utilities and electric cooperatives. There are now less than 121,000 customers in the Lone Star State without power.

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