



## RELEASED

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### Restoration efforts ahead of schedule and nearing completion

LIVINGSTON – Just 16 days after Hurricane Rita devastated the forests and infrastructure of East Texas, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative has restored power to 99 percent of members. As of Monday evening, electricity has been restored to 63,623 of the Cooperative’s 64,573 meters. Most of the 950 meters that remain are in Tyler and Hardin counties. A handful of isolated cases in north Liberty County and other areas are being repaired by service crews.

Within the past few days, there have been two incidents in which automobiles slammed into poles and caused outages. There have also been cases in which trees were cut by loggers and dropped onto power lines. Sam Houston EC crews responded quickly, and none of the resulting outages were of long duration.

Hundreds of line workers from across the United States are assisting Sam Houston EC with repair efforts, primarily in Tyler and Hardin counties. The Woodville base camp, which was set up to house many of those workers, continues operating.

Before the violent winds of Rita were done ripping through the Piney Woods, all of Sam Houston EC’s 64,000 meters had been knocked out of service. Many Cooperative personnel worked throughout the storm preparing to go into the field, while others staffed the call center and took outage reports from members. A massive force of more than 1,200 joined Sam Houston Electric Cooperative to bring electricity back to East Texas.

According to Operations Supervisor Larry Horn, “People in the communities have been great. They are very supportive and encouraging, and that really helps to keep the guys going.”

