



RELEASED

Date September 29, 2005 9 am

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative Hurricane Rita Progress

The facts:

- Four of ten counties in our service area have been declared disaster areas. (Tyler, Hardin, Liberty and Jasper) Polk County also suffered major damage.
- The eastern half of our service area is devastated.
- 45,000 of our 64,000 members are without power as of Thursday, 8 am.
- 5,000 poles are broken and must be replaced.
- 1,500 miles of Sam Houston EC distribution lines are on the ground and will have to be rebuilt.
- There are 1,200 people total in the field working to restore power to Sam Houston EC members.
 - 500 tree and line removal workers
 - 700 line workers setting poles, picking up lines and rebuilding the system.
 - 90 percent of the crews assisting are from other cooperatives or independent contractors.
 - Crews have come from across the United States to assist.
- All of Sam Houston EC's substations are in good order.
- Our goal is to have our lines repaired and ready to deliver power by the time Entergy's transmission lines have been repaired and are able to deliver power to us.
 - Even in areas where Sam Houston EC lines are in working order, it is currently not possible to transmit energy to a majority of our distribution lines. This is due to the fact that major transmission lines that serve the region between Louisiana and East Texas were severely damaged by Hurricane Rita. Those transmission lines are being repaired as well.
 - In many cases, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative is like a gas station that has working pumps, but no gasoline to pump.
- As many as 400,000 people are without power in the state of Texas, 100,000 of those are members of electric Cooperatives (Sam Houston EC, Jasper-Newton EC, Deep East Texas EC).

Our number one priority is to get power to every cooperative member as soon as possible, but we cannot predict when that will happen. However, we'll be working non-stop until every Sam Houston Electric Cooperative member has power.

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