



## Houston County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### **N E W S R E L E A S E**

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#### **UPDATE FROM HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Outages Reported for 42 Percent of Houston County Electric Cooperative's Service Area

Houston County Electric Cooperative (HCEC) reported Monday morning that 42 percent of its members were without power—a total of 7,982 outages. Restoration is estimated within seven to 10 days.

“Much of the damage has been from trees falling on power lines and broken cross arms,” said Melody Pinnell, HCEC manager. “Progress has been steady, but debris removal is a slow process.”

The cooperative is working in areas served by Entergy Texas, which has reported to the Texas Public Utility Commission that the damage caused by Hurricane Ike is more extensive than the damage caused by Hurricane Rita three years ago. HCEC will be ready to restore power as soon as Entergy's transmission lines are repaired,” Pinnell said.

Members receiving power from the Midway, Ferguson, Trinity, and Groveton should prepare for an extended outage lasting up to 3 weeks. These substations receive power from Entergy's transmission lines. Entergy took a severe hit from Hurricane Ike and received damage to 98% of their transmission system.

Cooperative crews from Pedernales, Bandera, South Plains, and Taylor will be assisting in HCEC's recovery.

HCEC serves the following counties: Houston, Leon, Trinity, Anderson, Walker, Angelina, Cherokee, Madison and Freestone.