



PRESS RELEASE

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Mid South Synergy Prepares for IKE

Mid South Synergy requests that this information be communicated as soon as possible. Your assistance is needed in order to communicate this important situation. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Mid South Synergy consumers may experience electric power outages as a result of tornados, high winds, lightning and flash flooding that could be associated with Hurricane Ike's landfall forecasted for early Saturday morning 9/13 along the upper gulf coast of Texas.

Where this storm makes landfall will ultimately determine the extent of damage and hazardous conditions, and of course, the extent of any inconvenience to residents. Consumers in the six counties served by Mid South Synergy are encouraged to consider electric safety during and after the storm.

Generators

If used improperly, a back-up generator can make life a lot more dangerous!

If you plan to use a portable back-up generator for temporary electric power, follow the manufacturer instructions to protect you and your family. Also, DO NOT connect the generator to the house wiring unless you have had a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system, including the installation of a transfer switch to isolate the generator from the electric utility service. Without the transfer switch, the power from the generator will “back feed” through the transformer and raise the voltage to 7,200 volts, a level that can easily kill any serviceman trying to restore the power down the line. In addition, when the power is restored, it may cause an electrical fire and /or destroy the generator.

Downed Power Lines

Assume that any downed power line is “live.” If power lines are lying on the ground or dangling near the ground, do not touch the lines. Notify your utility company or local law enforcement authorities as soon as possible that the lines have been damaged, or that the lines are down. Do not attempt to move or repair the power lines. If you can, stay nearby to warn others away from the downed line.

Wiring and Appliances Exposed to Water

If you have appliances or equipment exposed to water, never assume they are safe to use after they have dried. Before you try to use any electrical appliance that has been exposed to water, take it to a qualified service technician. The item may be fine, it may need reconditioning, or it might require replacement.

Mid South operations and planning

With a storm of this magnitude we have taken extra precautions as we are in the final stages of planning with crews being strategically staged throughout our territory for power restoration efforts after Ike has

left our area. Rest assured that if this hurricane affects the area, Mid South Synergy will have crews working to restore its members' electric service. We do not plan to send crews out during the storm, as safety is our number one priority. At this time, Mid South crews will be working until midnight on 9/12 because of necessary final planning. After midnight tonight, depending on the severity, path and duration of Hurricane Ike we do not intend to send crews out until Hurricane Ike has passed and is at a safe distance away from our service territory. We will then mobilize our damage assessment teams for the coordination of restoration operations.

Mid South offices and communications

At this time each of our offices in Huntsville, Navasota and Montgomery will be open to the public until 5 pm on Friday and will remain closed during the weekend. However we will be accepting correspondence (such as outage information) through our nite-drop boxes and drive in window facilities. If customers feel the need to contact us for any reason over the weekend (in the event of Ike), we strongly encourage them to utilize our automated outage reporting system by dialing our number 1-888-525-6677, option #1. We also encourage our members to access our website www.midsouthsynergy.com for updated press releases and outage reporting.

Please stay safe.

Stay tuned to this station for further updates, especially if you cannot get through to us by telephone. We appreciate our members' patience and support during this time.

Mid South Synergy is a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative serving just under 17,000 members in Grimes, Brazos, Madison, Walker, Montgomery and Waller Counties. Please visit our website at www.midsouthsynergy.com

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 640 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 22 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and longstanding commitment to communities.