



Nueces Electric Cooperative

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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NUECES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO PROVIDE DAILY UPDATES ON ITS ELECTRIC SYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRESS AFTER HURRICANE IKE

Nueces Electric Cooperative activated its emergency response plan Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. in anticipation of a tropical cyclone landfall in its service area along the South Texas Coastal Bend. Nueces Electric Co-op serves consumers with approximately 17,000 electric services in parts of eight counties, including Nueces, Kleberg, Kenedy, Jim Wells, Duval, Live Oak, Brooks and McMullen.

NEC encourages its member-consumers to rush their family hurricane preparedness plans to completion. NEC also encourages its consumers who are dependent on life support, and consumers who are elderly and/or heat sensitive to make plans in anticipation of power outages that could last for an extended period of time.

For those with Internet access, daily updates on the impacts to the NEC system and restoration progress may be viewed today and throughout the service restoration process on NEC's website at www.nueceselectric.org.

NEC has received notice from South Texas Electric Cooperative that, as it deems necessary, it will be "taking off reclosing" at the substations in our area in order to minimize the amount of damage to all system electrical equipment caused by Hurricane Ike. Simply put, NEC members should expect the interruption of power possibly as early as Friday afternoon. If this occurs, consumers on these affected substations will not have power restored until after the storm passes and damage to the delivery system associated with the substation can be assessed. While this is inconvenient for our members, this action will ultimately prevent damage to both the substation and distribution system equipment and can significantly shorten the duration of power interruptions as a result of the storm. We encourage NEC members to be prepared for this potential situation.

If you plan to use a portable backup generator for temporary electric power, follow the manufacturer's 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 that includes 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 feed back through the transformer and raise the voltage to 7,200, which can easily kill the serviceman trying to restore the power down the line. In addition, when the power is restored such a connection may cause an electrical fire and/or destroy the generator.

John Sims, NEC chief executive officer, said, "A tropical system can destroy in minutes, an electric system that took decades to build. It is important to be prepared, monitor these systems, and implement a sound response plan upon impact. NEC has a sound plan and is prepared to implement it when/if this system impacts our area consumers. As always, NEC will work to provide the best service possible."