

## **“On the Scene at Sam Houston EC”**

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It was another interesting day at Sam Houston EC (the natives call it "She-Co"). As I walked up to the office this afternoon there was a missing sound that I had come to expect. The old generator was not running. For me it was the biggest news of the day as the office where I have been sleeping now has full power, which means the A/C is now working.

A very small section of Livingston got power, as did a few other limited locations. It seems a good deal of the problem is from the Entergy transmission network. They may be able to pull some of the SHECO load tomorrow.

Utility crews were busy today. When they are working on a section of line, they mark them with an orange tag hanging off of their ground jumpers. These tags were dangling from the wires all over the place. There were also clusters of vehicles. I took some photos of these little track vehicles, one with a bucket and another with a digger. It allows them to work in a very swampy area and not get stuck.

As I drove around I still saw long lines at the few gas stations that had power. The point of distribution (POD) locations also had long lines where FEMA is giving out ice, food (MRE's) and water. Ice is like gold.

Folks are still being friendly at each of the traffic signals, which are now four way stops. Occasionally someone who has not been to town will sit at the lights not sure what to do. A good deal of the daily traffic is utility trucks or support vehicles. Trucks with loads of poles and transformers is a regular sight.

Several hundred crew members are at Camp Tomahawk, a Baptist summer camp. It overlooks a nice lake with a cross that reflects in the water at dusk. Some of the crews were out after work playing basketball like they were first week campers. I don't know how they found the energy. The camp manager had his extended family there to help feed and host the crews. They were a very welcoming bunch. It felt like family.

The media and co-op members continue to be kind and understanding to SHECO. The years of fostering trust and good member relations are paying off.

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