




Texas Electric Cooperatives

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NEWS RELEASE

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE HARD AT WORK ON OUTAGES

Several electric cooperatives reported major progress in getting the lights back on Wednesday, September 17, following heavy blows by Hurricane Ike on Saturday.

In addition to workers from sister cooperatives, some of the hardest-hit areas are receiving assistance from contract repair crews from across the United States.

“Texans, we’re here!” was the message painted on a convoy of trucks from New Jersey thundering into East Texas Wednesday morning. They were joining an army of nearly 3,000 linemen and cleanup crews rebuilding **Sam Houston Electric Cooperative’s** electric distribution system.

The co-op in the Piney Woods lost all of its power due to Hurricane Ike. In many cases, area distribution lines will be repaired well before Entergy Texas completes its work restoring long-distance transmission lines in the worst disaster in that company’s history.

As of 10 a.m., power had been restored to approximately 8,300 meters (close to 13 percent) of Sam Houston EC’s system. County by county, Angelina was 57 percent restored, Hardin 4 percent restored and Polk 37 percent restored.

Jasper Newton Electric Cooperative reported Wednesday afternoon that half of its meters had been restored.

Early Wednesday, **Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative** reported 1,732 outages across its service territory, down from more than 27,000 outages immediately after Ike. Service for most of the areas without electric service is expected to be restored in 24 to 48 hours.

“The outage figures are tap lines, extending from major feeders, which are out of service. Some of the lines have broken poles, broken cross arms or damaged wire that needs replacement. Other lines still have trees and limbs to be removed prior to restoration,” said spokeswoman Linda Williams.

“Some meters will be out longer due to individual transformers or damage to a member’s residence,” she said.

Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative reported Wednesday afternoon that its system had only 650 outages. “We expect to have them on line by the end of the day,” said Barron Christensen, manager of the cooperative.

Most volunteer crews from other cooperatives that had been working at Bowie-Cass EC were reassigned to work at Houston County and Upshur-Rural. The Wood County crew was remaining in the Bowie Cass service territory through Thursday to assist with electric service.

Houston County Electric Cooperative had 3,480 reported outages at 5 p.m. Wednesday. That was approximately 18 percent of the system.

Mid-South Synergy has been able to maintain power service to most of Brazos, Grimes, Walker and Madison counties through back feeds from the ERCOT grid. On Wednesday, less than 750 remained without power in Grimes County. Work in Madison County has been swift as less than 50 Mid-South customers were without power. In Walker County, restoration efforts were very limited due to lack of transmission power available from Entergy Texas, the transmission

company that serves much of the area. Approximately 2,000 Mid-South customers remained without power in Walker County.

Rusk County Electric Cooperative reported 4,275 remaining outages Wednesday afternoon. The cooperative was receiving assistance from four outside cooperatives and several contract crews. All substations were powered, said General Manager Buddy Bankhead. However, Southwestern Electric Power Company, the co-op's generation and transmission provider, still had work to do on transmission lines before full service could be restored. Bankhead says he expects repairs to be ongoing through the weekend.

Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative reported 6,000 remaining outages at 5 p.m. Wednesday—16 percent of its electrical system. At the height of the storm, close to 75 percent of the co-op's system was out. "We hope to have everything restored by the weekend or the end of the weekend," General Manager Larry Warren said.

For cooperative updates, go to www.texas-ec.org.

Photo outline of workers: Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's supplemental crew is expected to increase to 3,000 on Thursday, September 18.

Photo Credit: Stephen W. Williams