




## Texas Electric Cooperatives

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SHOW GREAT PROGRESS AFTER IKE**

Things were looking up for Northeast Texas electric cooperatives hit Saturday by Hurricane Ike. Four have power completely restored. They are **Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative**, Douglassville; **Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative**, Marshall; **Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative**, Kaufman; and **Wood County Electric Cooperative**, Quitman. Each has repaired all storm-related line and transformer damage.

“We’re pretty much in service,” Bowie-Cass Manager Barron Christensen said on Thursday, September 18. “We’re in good shape.”

Panola-Harrison EC, which at one point reported 12,000 outages in the wake of Hurricane Ike, has restored power to all meters, “Everybody that we had out related to the storm is up and running,” office manager Jim Pinkston said Thursday, noting that Panola-Harrison was assisted by outside contractors and other co-op crews.

**Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative** reported a total of 956 outages Thursday morning in Camp, Cass, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Rusk, Smith and Upshur counties. Harrison County had the most outages with 269, followed by Gregg with 246.

The outage numbers are from tap lines extending from major feeders, which are out of service. Some of these lines have broken poles, broken cross arms or damaged wire that needs to be replaced while others still have trees and limbs that have to be removed prior to restoration.

On Thursday morning, Upshur Rural officials estimated that most outages would be restored in 24 to 48 hours. Officials added that they continue to find more damage to their system from hurricane winds.

**Rusk County Electric Cooperative**, which had 19,200 reported outages earlier in the week, was down to 2,000 outages at 3:30 p.m. Thursday. “We’re making headway,” said Buddy Bankhead, the cooperative’s general manager. Rusk County EC is based in Henderson.

Even cooperatives that were closer to the hurricane’s landfall had news of improvements to report. **Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative**, which experienced 86 percent outages, was down to only 32 percent at 3 p.m. Thursday with 7,342 outages. “All our substations are back up, and we are working on some distribution lines,” said General Manager Mark Tamplin. He estimated that by the middle of next week the cooperative will have made all repairs possible in Jasper-Newton territory.

**Sam Houston Electric Cooperative** reported at 10 a.m. Thursday that power was restored to another 3,000 meters, meaning that nearly 27 percent of the co-op’s meters have power. Crews continue to put in long hours, but the co-op projects that it will be another 10 days before power is restored to all of its 66,000 meters.

**Mid-South Synergy** reported that Montgomery County remains without full transmission from Entergy Texas. However, 21,237 meters have been restored. To help the situation in Montgomery County, the co-op has set up a diesel generator on a temporary basis to power the county’s water and wastewater services. The Bryan-College Station firm Lynntech delivered the standby generator. “We are overwhelmed and very thankful for corporate commitments from firms such as Lynntech helping out a power utility in need,” said Mid-South’s Jeff Murski.

**Deep East Electric Cooperative** had 4,975 outages Thursday.

For updates, go to [www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org) and access press releases.

Cutlines for 9/18 damaged SHECO Home:

Cathy Hayman photographs her husband, Kenneth, atop their damaged home in Dayton, Texas.

Cathy Hayman stands outside her hurricane-damaged home in Dayton, Texas.

Photo Credit: Stephen W. Williams