




Texas Electric Cooperatives

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NEWS RELEASE

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES REPORT METERS RESTORED, DISCUSS LESSONS LEARNED

There were enough improvements in restoring electric co-op power knocked out by Hurricane Ike a week ago that leaders are taking a breath to discuss what they have done well and what they will do even better the next time disaster strikes. Ten East Texas electric cooperatives experienced outages due to the hurricane.

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative lost 100 percent of its power, but by Saturday, September 20, more than 50 percent of its members had power restored and the co-op was ahead of initial restoration projections.

By Saturday morning, **Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative** had restored 92 percent of its meters. “We will continue working diligently to restore power and are confident that this number will increase daily,” a spokesperson said. Approximately 350 line workers, including men from three sister electric cooperatives were working to rebuild the remaining lines.

A morning report also said service had been restored to almost 19,000 **Rusk County Electric Cooperative** meters, and 2,700 miles of power lines had been repaired and re-energized. Or to put this news another way, approximately 300 of the co-op’s meters remained without power. “Work will continue until all meters have been restored. Our crews remain steadfast on their goal to restore every service available to receive power,” said spokesman Ricki Keeling.

Houston County Electric Cooperative reported Saturday morning that it had whittled its outages down to 6.6 percent of meters served.

Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative had only 1.1 percent of meters out and **Cherokee County Electric Cooperative** had 1.9 percent of meters out.

Mid-South Synergy spokesman Jeff Murski said Saturday that less than 250 customers remained without power in the counties of Brazos, Grimes, Walker and Madison. Power had been restored to 80 percent of the cooperative’s service territory. In addition, the cooperative had completed all major repairs to its distribution system in the Montgomery/Conroe area. “Because of careful planning and the swift action of our crews and contractors, we are quickly closing the gap on full power restoration for the Montgomery County area over the weekend,” Murski said.

Governor Rick Perry visited Sam Houston Electric Co-op (EC) Thursday night and praised the rebuilding efforts. “This spirit of cooperation makes me proud to be a Texan and proud to be associated with those who know how to get things done,” Perry said.

Executives at Sam Houston EC discussed with the governor the importance of strong local leadership during a crisis such as Hurricane Ike and how the combined efforts of all East Texas cooperatives are making it possible to restore power to members quickly and effectively.

“In a manner of speaking, Hurricane Rita (three years ago) made us better,” said Kyle Kuntz, Sam Houston EC’s general manager and CEO. “The lessons learned from Hurricane Rita enabled us to improve our efforts to effectively and safely restore power to our members in a disaster situation.”

Governor Perry invited Sam Houston EC to get together after Ike restoration to discuss the use of various co-op resources to further improve storm preparedness and response time.