

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative

NEWS RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

As of Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 6:00 A.M., Upshur Rural Electric is reporting the following outages by county as follows:

CAMP	3
CASS	74
GREGG	275
HARRISON	649
MARION	227
MORRIS	0
RUSK	26
SMITH	408
UPSHUR	67
WOOD	0
TOTAL	1,732

UPSHUR RURAL ELECTRIC HAS 42,642 METERS IN 10 COUNTIES AND AT THE PEAK OF THE STORM THERE WERE OVER 27,000 MEMBERS AFFECTED.

The outage numbers shown above 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 which needs to be replaced while others still have trees and limbs that have to be removed prior to restoration.

It is estimated that most of the ones still out of service will be restored in 24 to 48 hours. Some will be out longer due to individual transformers or damage to a member's residence. Please call our office if you have not reported your outage. If you are an individual outage or among those at the end of tap lines, please be patient as we work our way to you.

Clearly, restoring power is not as easy as flipping a switch. From setting poles to stringing wire, there is a still work that has to be done. We are dealing with saturated ground, which makes setting new poles difficult and trees have continued to fall on our lines everyday. Our crews have to get to downed poles and use chain saws to remove trees from twisted and mangled lines. Leaning poles must be fixed, and there is line to resag, meaning it is tightened or loosened, depending on what a particular situation requires. Then they must clean up scrap wire, broken poles, insulators and transformers

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative is STILL at work – from the support staff in the office taking your calls to line crews out in the field. We have been working day and night since Ike roared into our service territory on Saturday and will continue to work day and night until your power is back on. We have contractor crews, tree trimming contractors as well as two other cooperatives helping us.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we diligently continue to work to restore service to “YOU” our members.