



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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Linemen Rebuild Areas of LREC's System in The Wake of May Tornadoes and Flooding



Photo by: Larry Mattes

On the night of May 21, 2019, LREC sustained a substantial amount of damage to our electric distribution system with the spring tornadoes in the areas of Peggs and Teresita in Cherokee County.

LREC had nearly 100 broken poles and miles of lines on the ground after the storm passed.

Crews were dispatched, and once on site, realized access was going to be a significant issue with the restoration process. Every road had large trees and other storm debris in the way. Crews used chainsaws and cleared the streets so that they could reach the lines for damage assessment.

LREC was quick to call in mutual aid right-a-way clearing crews as well as line construction crews. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven co-op principals. Mutual aid was on its way from Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Cherokee, OK and Rural Electric Cooperative, Lindsay, OK, as well as RES contractor crews dispatched out of Texas, and Riggs Tree Service.

LREC and mutual aid crews worked on restoring power from dusk to dawn. Some crews were also working through the evenings. While crews continued to restore power, LREC was hit with more rain and flooding. LREC was dealing with flooded roads while restoring power. A new obstacle, besides access, was the new pole holes started caving in, requiring the crews to use 55-gallon barrels inside the dig area to keep the hole from caving in from all the rain.

Chance Ryals, Apprentice Lineman working at the top of a new pole.

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Tornadoes and Flooding

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As the water continued to rise on the Arkansas River and Verdigris River, our neighboring power provider, OG&E was working with their own issues of flooding to substations and power lines in the areas of Ft Gibson and Braggs. LREC was able to partner with OG&E to provide a temporary power feed to bring power back to the city of Braggs. OG&E was able to help LREC and back feed power restoring power to LREC's members affected in the area.

"I'm proud of our storm restoration and to be working with a great group of employees and their dedication to you, the members, and their commitment to restoring power," said Hamid Vahdatipour CEO.

Photo by: Logan Pleasant

Rebuilding 100 poles in a few days is no small task, LREC is grateful for all our members' kind thoughts and messages during these long days and nights. Our extraordinary linemen dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. We are also thankful for our sister co-ops and contractors that sent crews to help rebuild.

Members can stay up to date with extensive outage restoration information on our Facebook page and our online outage map on our website. If you are not following our Facebook account, like our page and be the first to see the latest news, outage updates, photos, money saving tips and more!



Dusty Jones, right-of-way



Levi Carson, lineman intern



Dusty Jones and Ron Daniels, right-of-way

Photos by: Larry Mattes

Understanding the Seven Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives are independent, private and not-for-profit organizations owned by you, the members we serve. Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason why Lake Region Electric Cooperative operates differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first. We will go over these seven principles in a two-part series in your newsletter. Here are the first three principles.

1 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



Co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

2 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working together (mutual aid during disasters) through other local, regional, and national and international structures.

3 EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION



Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees, so they can contribute effectively to the development of their local co-op and community. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Employee Volunteers at Special Olympics

Volunteers from electric co-ops across the state help out at the state Special Olympics games in Stillwater every May. They help man concession stands, pass out water inside Gallagher-Iba Arena, escort wheelchair athletes to V.I.P. seating at center court, stage athletes preparing for races, act as starters and runners during races, serve as official timekeepers, hug the winners and console those who did not win, and ensure all participants receive awards.

Electric cooperatives are one of the largest volunteer groups, with over 80 volunteers from co-ops across the state. LREC is proud that Glen Clark, Director of Marketing, volunteered, demonstrating one of the cooperative principles, "Concern for Community." Learn more about this event, visit www.sook.org.



Photo courtesy of OAE

Glen Clark, LREC Director of Marketing

Summer Heat is here, Don't forget about LREC Rebates!

Members who are upgrading or replacing an air conditioning system, LREC encourages you to consider purchasing an energy efficient system. Heating and cooling your home is one of the main energy loads on your monthly electric bill. A rebate survey, the appropriate rebate form, and a company invoice, with the date and proof of purchase price, must be submitted to receive rebate credit. Application for all rebates are available to download at www.lrecok.coop/rebates or feel free to contact Juanita Keener, Member Services, at **918-772-2526**.



Lake Region Electric Cooperative offers rebate credits for newly installed units or replacement units.

Energy Star Window Unit Air Conditioner	\$50 per unit. Limit two per house.
Mini-Split	\$150 per ton, the unit must have a minimum of 17 SEER.
Air Source Heat Pump	\$150 per ton, the unit must have a minimum of 17 SEER.
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$750 per ton for new system. \$150 per air handler replacement.

So much more than just an internet connection.

Lake Region is delivering a 100% fiber network directly to your home or business. Plus, Lake Region is local, you know you are getting the best from the community partner you know and trust. Do more with a fiber connection. Register online at register.lrecok.net or call **918-772-2526** for future service. Let's take our rural communities forward together.

- ▶ a reliable connection
- ▶ extremely fast speeds - 100 Mbps
- ▶ low prices
- ▶ increased property values
- ▶ local community partnership
- ▶ future sustainability

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

