

The Twin Valley

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

October 2005

501 Huston St. ❖ P.O. Box 385 ❖ Altamont, Kansas 67330-0385

Phone: (866)-784-5500

Fax: (620) 784-2464

"Owned By Those We Serve"



Twin Valley Sends Crew for Hurricane Recovery

Two volunteer linemen and one bucket truck from Twin Valley Electric Cooperative are assisting weary line crews in hurricane recovery efforts.

On September 7, 2005, they joined cooperative crews from around the nation to restore power in some of the worst hit areas.

The Twin Valley crew is assisting Coast Electric Power Association, which has offices in Bay St Louis and Biloxi, Mississippi. This electric cooperative estimated they had 30,000 electric poles damaged or destroyed by the hurricane. Crews have spent days clearing fallen trees and other debris so that power lines could be restrung.

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative crew joined 50 linemen from nine Kansas electric cooperatives as part of a larger effort provided by electric cooperatives from across the United States.

"In Mississippi, an astounding 50,000 utility poles were knocked down by Katrina," said Ron Holst-teen General Manager. "As a testament to cooperation among cooperatives, more than 7,600 workers from the local coops and co-ops from 14 other states are working to restore power. We are proud that our linemen wanted to be a part of the recovery effort."

At peak outage, co-ops had almost a half-million consumers

without power.

"Right at first, since most of the homes were gone, our linemen worked to restore the infrastructure such as hospitals, fire stations, water plants and critical facilities," said Larry Detwiler, director of loss control, safety and compliance for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.(KEC)

The Kansas crews, which came from all parts of the state, are being coordinated by KEC. KEC coordinates the crews during emergencies such as ice storms or tornadoes. The volunteer linemen are working 16-hour days to help restore power, and are sleeping on army cots in a warehouse along with hundreds of other linemen.

According to Hobson Waites, CEO of the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, it could be a month or more before service is fully restored in his state. The Kansas crews stay for 14 days and then rotate with fresh linemen from the Kansas electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives have always offered assistance to neighboring systems and to other states in times of crisis. In addition to sending volun-

teer crews, Kansas electric cooperatives are also collecting donations to help hurricane victims.

"The dedication of these linemen is tremendous," Detwiler said. "A lot of these linemen have just come through the most expensive ice storm in Kansas cooperative history in January. Many of them are still working on restoring and rebuilding their own power lines, but they are willing to travel and help with the monumental task of restoring entire power systems that were downed by Hurricane Katrina."

Kansas electric cooperatives sending crews include: Butler, Flint Hills, Heartland, Girard; Kaw Valley, Topeka; Midwest Energy, Hays; Pioneer, Ulysses, Mankato; Twin Valley, Altamont and Victory, Dodge City.



Tom Shelton (left), crew foreman, and Tyler Kennett, apprentice lineman, in Bay St Louis, Mississippi.

Linemen Practice Bucket Repelling Skills

What would you do if you were a lineman caught up in a bucket and your truck is out of commission?

During a routine practice of bucket repelling skills, Tyler Kennett shows how to make a harness out of rope and safely repel to the ground.



Please Report Meter Readings

The last few months we have reminded members to put their name and account number on the electric coupons. This month we need to stress the importance of reporting meter readings in a prompt manner.

In the last month, 105 members have not reported readings for their accounts. If you do not send in the reading, it is the Twin Valley policy that after the second month of no reading we are to send out the linemen to read them and charge the member's account \$25.00.



So, please check your coupons for readings. If you find that you have forgotten to give one please call the office with your reading. We will be glad to enter your reading and save you \$25.00.

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501 Huston Ave
Altamont KS
1-866-784-5500
www.tvecwb.com