

# Louisiana’s Electric Co-ops Launch Damage Assessments from Hurricane Delta, Approximately 90,000 Electric Co-op Consumer-Members Without Power

For Immediate Release

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BATON ROUGE (October 10, 2020) – Hurricane Delta made landfall along the coast of a storm battered Louisiana on Friday, causing extensive damage to the electric systems of several local electric cooperatives, and leaving many consumer-members without power.

At the peak of the storm over 90,000 electric co-op consumer-members are without electricity due to fallen wires, damaged poles, and severe flooding.

“Hurricane Delta came ashore in the already storm torn southwest Louisiana and moved northeastward through the state. Causing damage to all our ALEC member electric cooperatives’ systems,” said Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) CEO Jeff Arnold. “The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) has once again initialized our mutual-aid network to recruit help from line workers from other states to assist in the recovery,” said ALEC CEO Jeff Arnold.

The damage assessment process allows electric cooperatives to strategically target power restoration efforts. These damage assessments must be completed before a co-op can generate an estimated restoration time for its members.

Preliminary damage assessment reports produced a staggering number of power outages across the entire state. The following are our Louisiana member cooperatives and the estimated outages on their system:

Beauregard Electric	100%	42,000 meters
Claiborne Electric	21%	5,000 meters
DEMCO	30%	29,000 meters
Jeff Davis Electric	100%	11,000 meters

Washington-St. Tammany Electric (WSTE) and South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) experienced outages during the storm, but have been working to restore power immediately following the storm.

At this time, we have commitments for mutual-aid assistance from Georgia, South Carolina, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Alabama, Arkansas, and Kentucky.

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives urges consumer-members to stay safe in the wake of the storm, as conditions remain hazardous in many areas. Consumer-members are encouraged to follow the following safety tips:

Stay away from downed wires. Always assume they are energized. Contact the co-op to report downed wires or an outage.

Avoid flooded areas. Flooding is a major threat from Hurricane Delta. Flash flooding can occur suddenly due to intense rainfall. Long-term flooding along rivers and streams can persist for days following a storm. When approaching water on a roadway, remember: Don't Drown. Turn Around.

Avoid crews working in the street. This will keep you and the crews safe and allow them to work on restoring your power.

If you plan to use a portable generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions, and use only when necessary. Don't overload it and turn it off at night when you're asleep or if you leave your home.

To avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, place portable generators outside in a well-ventilated area, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows. Never run a generator inside, not even in your garage. Do not connect the generator directly into your home's main fuse box or circuit panel.

Protect food and refrigerated medicine with ice in an insulated cooler. If you are without power for more than two hours, refrigerated foods should be placed in a cooler. Foods will stay frozen for 36 to 48 hours in a fully loaded freezer if the door remains closed, and a half-full freezer will generally keep frozen foods for up to 24 hours. Check [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) to learn more about when to throw out or keep food after a power outage.

Turn off power to flood-prone basement appliances if it is safe to do so. However, if you have an electric sump pump, you should not turn off the power in your basement.

Follow your local electric cooperatives social media pages for restoration information.



*Our Louisiana electric cooperatives serve over 1 million customers in 50 parishes in Louisiana.*