



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL HIGHLIGHTS



*Journeyman Lineman Shane Norris, Line Foreman Curt Nicholson, Apprentices Andrew Boston and Dalton Brown.*

## RECC sends 4-man crew to North Carolina

As Hurricane Florence was heading toward Virginia and the Carolinas, a request for assistance was made from South River Electric Membership Co-op in Dunn, N.C. Waiting helplessly for hurricanes to strike is no longer an option. The goal is to have line crews in place and ready to go as soon as the area is safe to work, which means having resources in the area

beforehand. If the disaster area changes, crews can be dispatched to alternate locations as needed. A proactive response has become the standard practice as it decreases the amount of time members are without electrical service.

RECC sent two trucks and four linemen, but they were not alone. Illinois electric cooperatives Adams, Clay, Clinton, Egyptian, Corn Belt,

Eastern Illini, EnerStar, Jo-Carroll, Menard, Norris, Shelby, SouthEastern, Southern, Tri-County and Wayne-White joined them in North Carolina. In total, 80 lineworkers from Illinois co-ops participated in these efforts. The response was part of the emergency action plan with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



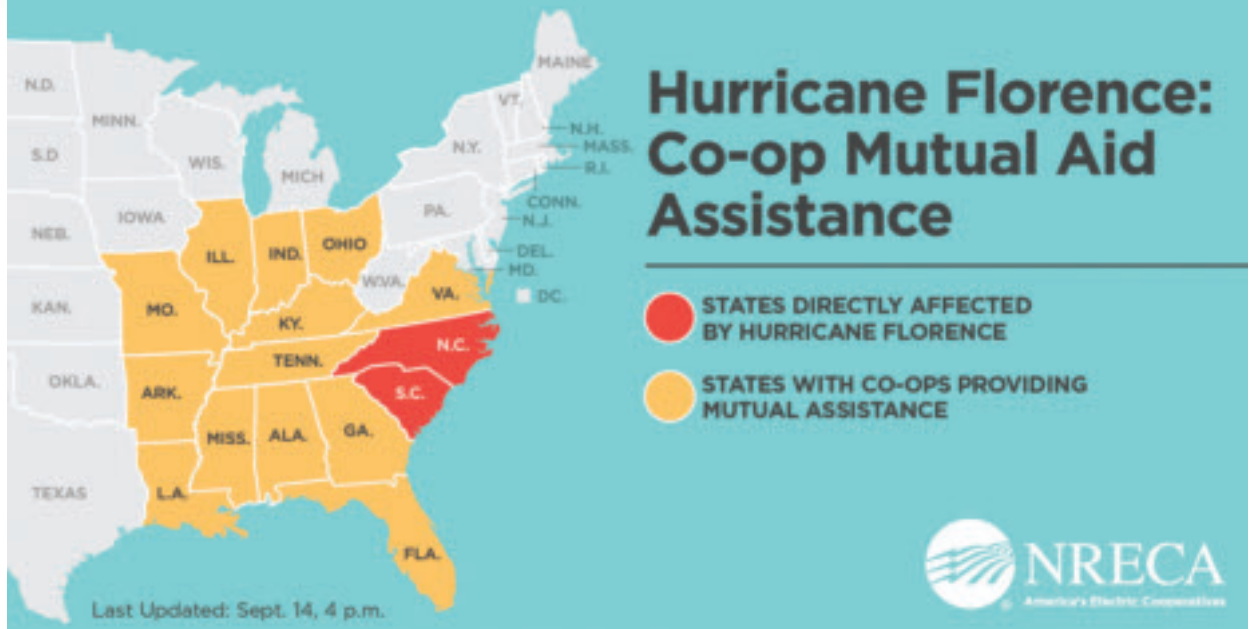
*Working in North Carolina, RECC linemen battled rain and mud for a full week.*

# Electric cooperatives unite in response to Hurricane Florence

Electric co-ops have been working together to coordinate response efforts. The mutual response plans involve co-ops in many states

helping with power restoration. More than 40,000 lineworkers from electric companies, electric co-ops and public power utilities have

been mobilized to restore power in the wake of the storm. This includes mutual assistance workers from at least 17 states.



## RECC receives local media attention

The Newschannel 20 team was on the scene. They wanted to capture the crews preparing for their upcoming assignment as Hurricane Florence was moving in on the Carolinas. A reporter spoke to some of the crews and conducted an on-air interview. They returned the next morning to film our linemen heading for the East Coast. RECC video footage was aired multiple times, highlighting the preparation need to provide support to a cooperative that is located hundreds of miles away. We would like to thank Newschannel 20 for highlighting the contributions made by Illinois cooperatives in support of a nationwide effort.



*Newschannel 20 setting up camera.*



*RECC's Shane Norris in the hours before departure.*



## IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 12 scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

**Six scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative.

**One scholarship**, the Earl W. Struck Memorial, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

**Four scholarships** are reserved



for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

**One scholarship**, the LaVern & Nola McEntire Lineworker's, will help pay for costs to attend the AIEC/LLCC lineworker's school in Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or

are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible to apply for the lineworker's scholarship.

*For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Member Services Liaison Sandy Lex at [sandy.lex@recc.coop](mailto:sandy.lex@recc.coop) or 217-438-6198. Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website [recc.coop](http://recc.coop).*

## RECC employees receive advanced training

Sgt. Travis Dalby, of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, gave a presentation to RECC employees called, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. The program was part of RECC's continued safety training. Dalby emphasized the need to act quickly and not panic. If a shooting event occurs, the first strategy he recommended was running away and leaving the building (Avoid); if that is not possible, close and lock doors and put up barricades (Deny); and finally, if the shooter enters your space, fight back (Defend). He stressed that doing nothing is not an option when it comes to an active shooter, stating, "If you

Sgt. Travis Dalby



are hiding, you are just hoping to stay alive." Dalby has done several school demonstrations and believes

that active shooter training should be done as frequent as fire and disasters drills.

# Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104  
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615  
(217) 438-6197  
e-mail: [recc@recc.coop](mailto:recc@recc.coop)  
[www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop)



## Board of Directors

Mel Repscher, Chairman  
Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman  
John A. Beatty, Sec.-Treasurer  
Cassie L. Eigenmann, Asst. Sec.-Treasurer  
Jimmy L. Ayers  
Clayton Bloome  
Andy Goleman  
Thomas Hart  
Lou Weitekamp

## President/CEO

David Stuva

## Editor

Jeff Lancaster

## Choose your payment option!

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

See our web page for monthly  
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## News & Notes

**Electric charging stations** – Seeing an electric car on Illinois roads may be rare, but the future appears to be bright. Illinois cooperatives are making plans to welcome the new technology. RECC and neighboring cooperatives are exploring options to place EV charging stations in rural areas. Electric car owners' greatest fear is "range anxiety," or running out of power before a suitable charging station can be found.

President/CEO David Stuva recently attended a ChargePoint EV charging presentation. Stuva says, "I believe there may be an opportunity for RECC to provide a service to meet the growing need for EV home charging and multi-charging stations, located throughout our service area." RECC will continue to monitor the electric car market and meet our members' needs.

**Low voltage** – When your lights suddenly become dimmer than usual, you are experiencing low voltage. This is also referred to as a "brownout." While it is more likely to experience low voltage at farms and homes fed by 3-phase services, single phase lines can be affected as well.

RECC has fuses to protect its equipment during these situations, but members must take care to protect their motors, pumps, appliances, etc. According to the National Electric Code, the responsibility of protecting devices within the farm, business and home lies with the member. When low voltage occurs, a home's circuit breaker will operate outside of its normal range for a short period of time; unfortunately this is long enough to allow damage.

Additional safeguards are needed to fully protect your equipment from low voltage. Air conditioners and furnaces are more susceptible to brownout damage and expensive to replace if they are damaged. Surge suppressors will not protect equipment when low voltage occurs, as its main purpose is reducing high voltage or spikes. A properly sized fuse, in conjunction with a breaker disconnect, can protect appliances because a fuse's protection is faster acting than a comparable circuit breaker. Grain bins should always have motor starters with electric "heaters" (small fuse strips) that disconnect the power when voltage is low. The motor starters will prevent damage and provide a safe way to power-up or disconnect fan motors.

Low voltage occurrences are rare, but brownout can cause serious damage to unprotected appliances and other equipment. If you suspect low voltage in your home or business, immediately turn off your breakers and call RECC at 217-438-6197.

