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We are prepared for summer storms

By David Bailey, General Manager SAEC

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that South Alabama Electric Cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory

of the needed supplies are on the trucks before they leave the office.

The system even allows for you to leave a message if you know exactly what caused the problem. You can let us know if you saw a tree fall on the line, if lightning struck a transformer or even if a section of line is down on the ground. Every piece of information makes the restoration process quicker for you.

Crews handle big problems first – like damage to transmission lines or substations,

which serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Next, they begin work on the lines leading into communities and individual accounts. South Alabama Electric's line crews work diligently to repair problems on our electric system as quickly as safety allows. We know it's an inconvenience to be without power and I can assure you, our crews work to keep that time to a minimum.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. You can track restoration efforts through the **outage map located on www.southaec.com**. This map shows real time where the crews are working and how many people are effected by an outage. We also post information about large outages on **our cooperative's Facebook and Twitter feeds**. ■

David Bailey serves as the general manager of South Alabama Electric Cooperative. He is a native of the New Hope Community in Coffee County and a graduate of Troy University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has been with SAEC since 1993.

“Our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.”

stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms damage can occur to transmission equipment, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. We make as many phone lines available as possible to take your outage calls. Our outage system is tied into our customer information system. When you call, if you've provided your phone number in your account information, it immediately locates you and provides our on-call personnel the location of your problem.

Our outage system ties into our mapping system as well. When it pinpoints your location, our crews are able to see exactly what equipment is needed at your location. For example, they know the size of your transformer, the type of wire, the height and type of poles. This allows them to make sure all

Outage map keeps co-op members informed when the lights go out

South Alabama Electric has a powerful tool to aid in power restoration and to keep you informed during an outage situation. Our Outage Map is just what it sounds like: a graphical representation of outages affecting our co-op service territory. The map shows where the outage is occurring, the number of people affected, and the location of crews working.

Behind that map is a sophisticated system that provides the data to populate the map. It's all part of our Automated Metering Infrastructure and our SCADA System. This system has helped us reduce outage times, increase reliability and provide better information to you - our members.

Maintaining this system is an ongoing process. It begins with identifying all of the devices and equipment - like transformers, meters, switches and poles - that are on the co-op electric grid. The employees at the cooperative can keep a watch on the system right at their desk. They can tell when a switch trips or a breaker operates. The employees are able to analyze and determine the problem before dispatching a crew to the trouble spot.

For example: Let's say something causes a fault in the lines that blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker. This could be from strong winds. Or maybe a squirrel running near a transformer. Or perhaps a car hit a pole. Regardless of the cause, the power is now out at your home and your neighbor's.

The piece of equipment nearest the fault sends a signal that it has tripped. A program on the computer runs to determine the extent of the outage. It looks at all of the other components near the event to see how widespread the outage is. Once it makes the estimation, a map is generated showing the extent of the outage.

Crews can now know before leaving the office what equipment they need to have available to more quickly get your power back on. It also allows us to provide you this real-time informa-

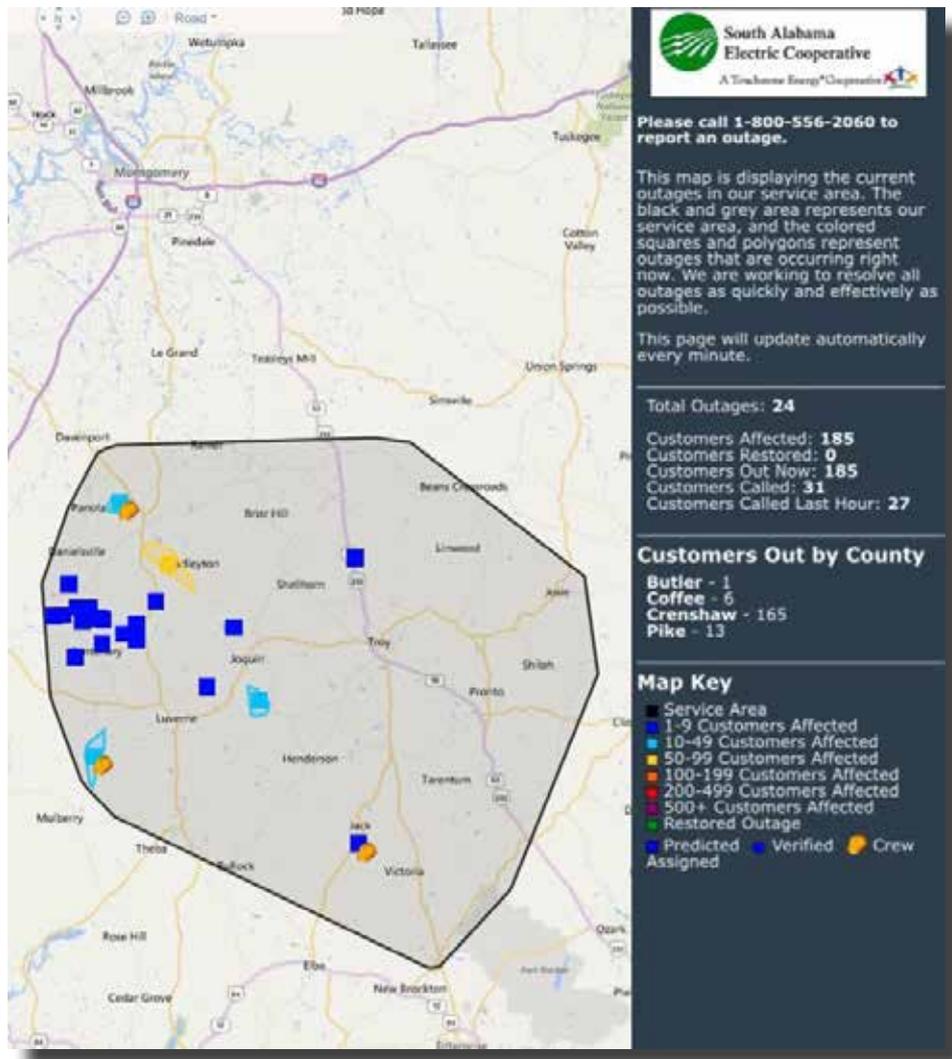
tion during outage situations as well. Our members can use the map, located on our website, to see what is happening and how widespread the outage is.

Some people ask, how can I use the map if the power is out? Our website has been designed on a platform that is friendly to all mobile devices - like smartphones and tablets. **Simply go to www.southaec.com and look for the outage map icon.** Click and you have instant access to the information. The map updates every 60 seconds so the information is always up to date.

We think knowledge is power and we want to give you as much information

about a situation as possible. The outage map is just one more example of how the co-op is working to keep you informed and be your valued source of information.

South Alabama Electric will always work to prevent outages from happening in the first place. But at times, events happen that are not within our control. When these happen, we'll always work to keep you informed and have the power restored as quickly as possible.



Catrett receives scholarship



Cassidy Catrett, a graduate of Brantley High School, received the 2016 Electric Cooperative Foundation Scholarship from South Alabama Electric Cooperative.

The Foundation was created by the rural electric cooperatives of Alabama in 1997 so that we could give back to the communities we serve by providing scholarships to deserving students located in our service territories.

Catrett was selected from applicants from across Alabama to represent our cooperative.

"We're excited to be able to provide this scholarship to such a deserving student," David Bailey, general manager of SAEC said. "We look at it as an investment in the future of our communities. We wish Cassidy the best of luck as she continues her educational pursuits."

Cassidy is the daughter of Perry and Ashley Catrett of Luverne.

She has been busy while enrolled at Brantley High School. She ranked first in her class and was valedictorian. She was a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Amer-

ican and Alabama Junior Shorthorn Association, Crenshaw County Junior Cattle-men's Association, Crenshaw County 4-H, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Brantley High School Student Council, the Emerald Wave Band, Brantley High School Science Club and Math Club and Future Business Leaders of America.

Her classmates recognized her determination and dedication to excellence by voting her Brantley High School FFA President and Senior Class Representative. She also served as Drum Major for the Emerald Wave Band since 2014.

Cassidy has received several honors and awards through her involvement with FFA. The Executive Secretary of the Alabama FFA Association Philip Paramore had this to say:

"As an educator, many students made their way through my classroom. During my 20 years of teaching there were many types of students with whom I had the privilege to come in contact with. Some students did not want anything to do with the educational process, and others wanted to further their education as much as

possible...I found only a few students to be inherent leaders. However, some students have a natural ability to influence their peers and make a positive difference in the lives of everyone they encounter."

Cassidy is also involved in her community through the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce Belle program. Her sponsor, Ruth Bayman said, "Cassidy is a responsible young lady with a positive attitude and a focus that is incomparable in our high school seniors. She is a leader and sets high standards for those around her to achieve."

Cassidy plans to pursue her college education at Mississippi State University where she will pursue a degree in Poultry and Animal Science. Her ultimate career goal is to be a veterinarian pharmacist.

South Alabama Electric Cooperative wishes Cassidy and all of our local graduates congratulations and best wishes as you pursue the next chapter in your lives. ■

South Alabama Electric's Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold 21,435,259	Total Accounts Billed 16,464	Consumers per mile of line 6.07
Average Utility Bill \$161.62	Total Miles of Line 2,710	
Average Use 1,302 kWh		

Information from APRIL 2016

Stay safe from the threat of lightning

Lightning strikes the U.S. millions of times each year, and every strike is a potential killer. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a thunderstorm.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. To be as safe as possible, you must seek shelter indoors or in an enclosed metal topped vehicle when there is a thunderstorm in the area.

One good way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to plan ahead. Listen to the forecast to know if there is a danger of severe weather, and make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. It is a good idea to heed the advice of the National Weather Service, "When thunder roars, go indoors."

However, if you make it indoors, that does not mean you are completely clear from danger. Electrical current from lightning can enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables, and plumbing.

During a thunderstorm, stay away from electrical outlets and any corded devices that could carry an electrical surge if lightning were to hit your home. Turn off or unplug such appliances, stay away from television sets, and do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike. Turn off your air conditioner to protect the compressor from a power surge and avoid a costly repair job.

Avoid water and contact with piping, including sinks, baths and faucets. Do not wash dishes, shower, or bathe during a thunderstorm. Also avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.

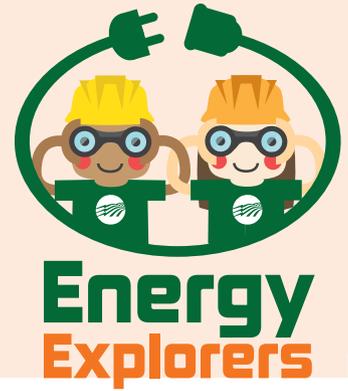
After a storm, wait until 30 minutes have passed without light-

ning or thunder before returning outside. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from where it is raining. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

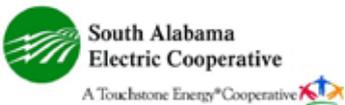
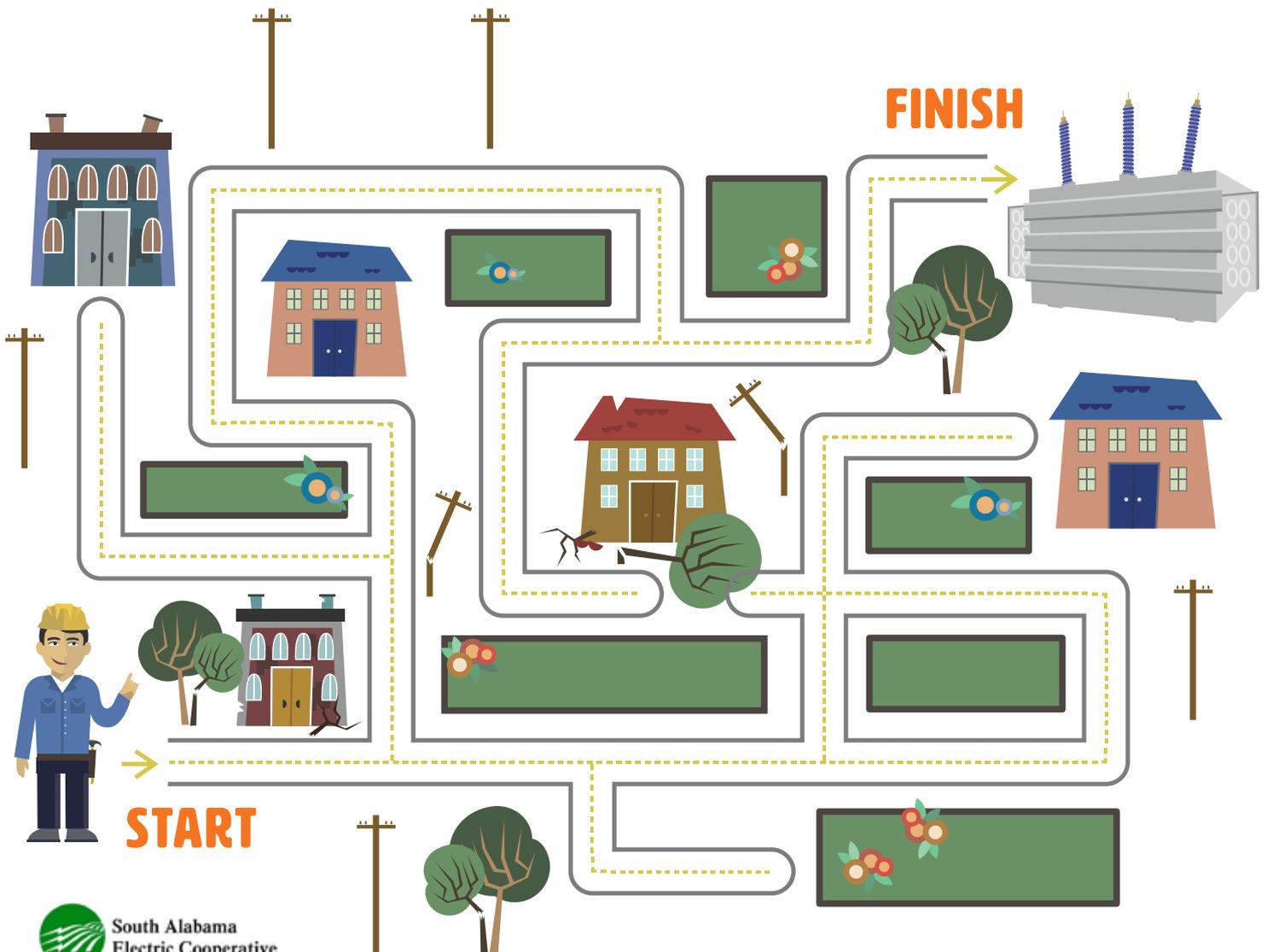


POWER OUTAGE MAZE ACTIVITY



If you've ever experienced a severe storm, you're probably familiar with power outages. Our local linemen come to the rescue and are responsible for fixing electrical damage to restore power to our homes.

Help the lineman get to the transformer to fix the power outage!





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