Hurricane Harvey: CoServ responds

Editor’s note: This special edition of Direct Lines details CoServ’s efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

When Hurricane Harvey hit South Texas, CoServ was ready.

Ready to help co-ops restore power to our fellow Texans.

Ready to collect funds for hurricane relief.

And ready to remind our Members, Customers and Employees that after 80 years in business, CoServ’s mission remains intact: To serve others.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, and it was on full display when San Patricio Electric Cooperative, which suffered outages across 84 percent of its 11,000-meter system, requested assistance.

It was on display again when five of those linemen, having completed restoration services for SPEC, traveled 80 miles northeast to help Victoria Electric Cooperative’s restoration efforts. (At the height of the storm-related outages, all 22,467 VEC members lost their power.)

And it was on display yet again when a group of 23 CoServ linemen headed toward Florida even before Hurricane Irma made landfall—standing ready to serve as soon as it was safe.

Our linemen faced many challenges, including poisonous snakes, bats atop utility poles and thousands of mosquitoes with little regard for repellent. (See photos on next page.)

CoServ belongs to Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC), a statewide association of 75 co-ops that collectively provide service to more than 3 million members. TEC coordinated with co-ops affected by the storm by contacting crews from co-ops who had volunteered aid.

CoServ crews prepared in advance of the call as did CoServ contractors Willbros and MasTec, which coordinated with us before sending four crews each to affected regions near Houston and along the Gulf Coast.

Through the CoServ Charitable Foundation (CCF), plans are under way to send more aid. We are grateful to be able to help during a crisis, but we couldn’t do it without the support of CoServ Electric Members, CoServ Gas Customers and CoServ Employees.

Thank you to all who contribute to CCF each month.
Commitment to service is a value we take seriously. Helping people in a time of need reflects the cooperative principles at CoServ’s core. Cooperation Among Cooperatives and Concern for Community drive our desire to make a difference in others’ lives.