



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Pearl River Valley Electric prepares for Nate to impact service area

Pearl River Valley Electric has made plans to react to any service problems caused by Tropical Storm Nate as it passes through the Association's 12-county service area in south Mississippi. The storm, which is predicted to become a hurricane, is expected to make landfall in south Mississippi sometime late Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

Employees will continue to respond to any outages as long as it is safe to do so; however, sustained winds of 30 miles per hour or more would prevent line crews and servicemen from continuing to try to repair damage.

After the storm passes, employees will assess overall damage to the system and begin implementing plans for restoring power to all members as well as to vital community services. If there is extensive damage, restoration efforts might take several days. Outside crews from neighboring utilities have been put on call, with a final decision expected to be made sometime Sunday or Monday about how many additional workers will be needed.

Once the storm passes, updated information about restoration will be provided regularly to all local media outlets. Storm-related information can also be found at www.PRVEPA.com.

The number to report outages or downed lines is **855-2PRVEPA** (855-277-8372). Members should update their contact numbers in order to be able to report outages efficiently.

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SAFETY/PRECAUTIONS

Anyone who sees a broken or burning wire should stay away and call Pearl River Valley Electric or local authorities. Warn others to keep clear of the fallen line and avoid contact with trees, fences or anything else the line may be touching.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

During extended outages, some members may use portable generators at their homes or businesses. **It's very important to use all generators correctly.** Do not use an extension cord to plug a generator into a household outlet. This can cause serious injury to you and/or restoration crews. Instead, only connect appliances directly to the generator. If you have any questions about the use of a generator, visit www.PRVEPA.com or call PRVEPA and ask for generator assistance.

REPORTING OUTAGES

Once the hurricane has moved through the area, members should replace any blown fuses or reset any tripped breakers in their homes. If the line connecting a house or business to the distribution pole is damaged, call to report an outage. If an entire neighborhood is without power, call once and then monitor news reports to follow restoration progress. **Pearl River Valley Electric's automated phone system is the fastest, easiest way to report an outage.** It's not necessary to talk with a customer service representative. The number to report outages or downed lines is **855-2PRVEPA** (855-277-8372).

HOME ELECTRICAL DAMAGE

As Pearl River Valley Electric crews make repairs to the electric system, it is important that members make sure the electric facilities at their homes or businesses are intact. Pearl River Valley Electric cannot restore electricity wherever electric meter boxes or service entrance pipes on the side of a facility are damaged. Members are responsible for contacting a licensed electrician to have those repairs made and may then call to have power restored.

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Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association serves more than 49,000 member-consumers in parts of 12 counties in south Mississippi. The Association's headquarters is in Columbia, with district offices located in Hattiesburg, Purvis and Wiggins.

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Media Note: System outage information by county is available at www.PRVEPA.com, then click on "outage map" at the top of the home page.