

# Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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## Co-ops quickly restore winter storm outages

Thousands of Kansans were without electricity after a winter storm downed power lines on March 27, 2009. However, nearly all of the residential outages were restored by March 30.

Blizzard conditions with snow, ice and winds in excess of 40 mph blew through much of western and central Kansas. The storm caused a substantial amount of damage to several Kansas electric cooperatives, and drifting snow and ice made several roads impassable.

At the peak of the storm, there were more than 6,000 outages within the service areas of Butler, Caney Valley, Flint Hills, Lyon-Coffey, Sedgwick County, and Sumner-Cowley. Governor Kathleen Sebelius declared a state of disaster emergency for 62 counties in Kansas.

“There was a significant amount of damage to our system, which consisted of downed power lines and around 70 broken poles. The ice was as thick as your hand in some places,” said Jeff Adams, Butler’s vice president of operations. “Our crews did an excellent job dealing with adverse weather conditions and long hours.” Butler had approximately 4,470 members without power.

The electric cooperatives worked around-the-clock to both identify the damage to their



*Ice coated power lines on Butler's system in a winter-like storm on March 27, 2009.*

Courtesy of Butler REC

systems and to restore service to their members. A large part of the outages were due to damage to the power supplier. Line crews from the following Kansas electric cooperatives, as well as private contractors, assisted in the repair efforts:

Ark Valley, Bluestem, DS&O, Radiant, and Twin Valley.



*Winter weather quickly warmed, leaving roads muddy and impassable. Equipment was brought in to drag the line trucks to the damaged areas.*

Courtesy of Butler REC





