



# Southern Pine poised for emergency response

*'We have an emergency plan that organizes employee efforts before, during and after storms.'*

— Don Jordan



**By Don Jordan  
General Manager**

The coming weeks historically mark the peak of hurricane activity in the Gulf, and Southern Pine is prepared—come what may.

We have a plan that organizes employee efforts before, during and after storms. The following is a description of each step:

■ **Storm Watch:** In the days and weeks prior to a major weather event, Southern Pine's general manager, staff and employees closely monitor the development of any weather threat and prepare to deal with the event.

■ **Storm Alert:** When it appears a storm will affect Southern Pine's service area, a Storm Alert is issued. Southern Pine will begin final preparations for emergency operations and speed them to completion.

■ **Storm Response:** After the storm has passed, the District Emergency Operations Centers begin efforts to restore service while coordinating all support efforts through the Headquarters Emergency Operations Center. Damage assessment teams go out, and assistance from additional crews is arranged if necessary.

■ **Post-storm Response:** After crews restore all power, normal operations resume as much as possible. Crews correct any temporary repairs and restore distribution lines to a pre-storm state. Debris clean-up continues until completed.

Our service area covers approximately 11 percent of the land mass in Mississippi, so when a storm hits we put our plan into

action and restore as much power in as short a period of time as possible. Much of our service territory is rural and it is time-consuming to rebuild lines.

As you can see from the diagram on page 11, it takes more than the flip of a switch to get power restored to all our members. There is a very detailed plan we follow to get the power back on quickly and safely.

Those of you who are dependent on medical equipment should have a plan of action in case electric power is out for an extended period of time.

Also, businesses that have critical loads, such as poultry and dairy farms, should also have a plan for extended outages. Make sure generators are in good repair and have a plan to move a person who is in ill health to an alternate location.

In the event of a storm Southern Pine has made arrangements for additional manpower, materials and equipment if needed. By participating in mutual-aid agreements with other electric power associations, we can quickly receive assistance from their emergency work crews to speed the rebuilding and repair of power lines and electrical facilities.

Whether facing a major hurricane or just an occasional summer outage, we are prepared. We have dedicated employees who make Southern Pine and our members their first priority.

Southern Pine exists to serve you, our members, with the best electric service possible at the lowest cost.

# Touchstone kept crews rolling

Tom Touchstone's mechanical ability helped keep Southern Pine Electric Power Association's fleet of vehicles on the road for more than 15 years, until his retirement March 12.

Southern Pine hired Touchstone in 1992. He previously worked as a mechanic at Howse Implement, a mower manufacturer in Laurel.

Touchstone, who lives near Prentiss, worked in Southern Pine's Taylorsville mechanic's shop for a year and a half before transferring to the electric cooperative's New Hebron District office.

A skilled mechanic, Touchstone was responsible for maintenance and repairs on a range of vehicles, including aerial bucket trucks, digger trucks, pickups and tractors. Each of these vehicles is crucial to the task of distributing electricity through more than 9,000 miles of power line.

Touchstone said he learned "a little about a lot" by working on so many types of vehicles and their hydraulic systems.

Although he enjoyed the challenges of problem-solving, the work took on added urgency in emergency situations, such as widespread power outages.

"Sometimes I had to get a truck running in the field so crews could get on with their work," he explained.

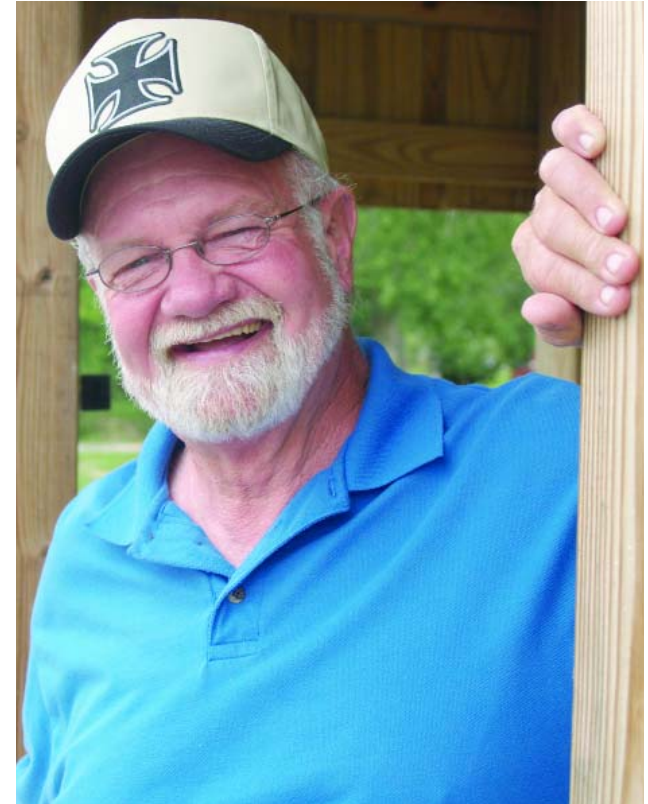
Touchstone hasn't completely given up trucks, or even completely retired. He owns an 18-wheeler with a flatbed trailer, which he uses for contract hauling transformers, farm equipment and other loads. "I go when I want to go. I don't want it to be a job; I just want to enjoy it every day," he said.

Shirley, his wife of 41 years, sometimes accompanies Touchstone on hauls to Kansas, Nebraska and other states.

He is also a motorcycling enthusiast who enjoys riding his Harley-Davidson Dyna Wide Glide. He returned a few weeks ago from a motorcycle trip to the Smoky Mountains, and, now that he is retired, likely has many more destinations in mind.

The Touchstones have two children, Russell and Connie. Russell and his wife, Pamela, have two children, Hayden, 5, and Tristin, 10 months.

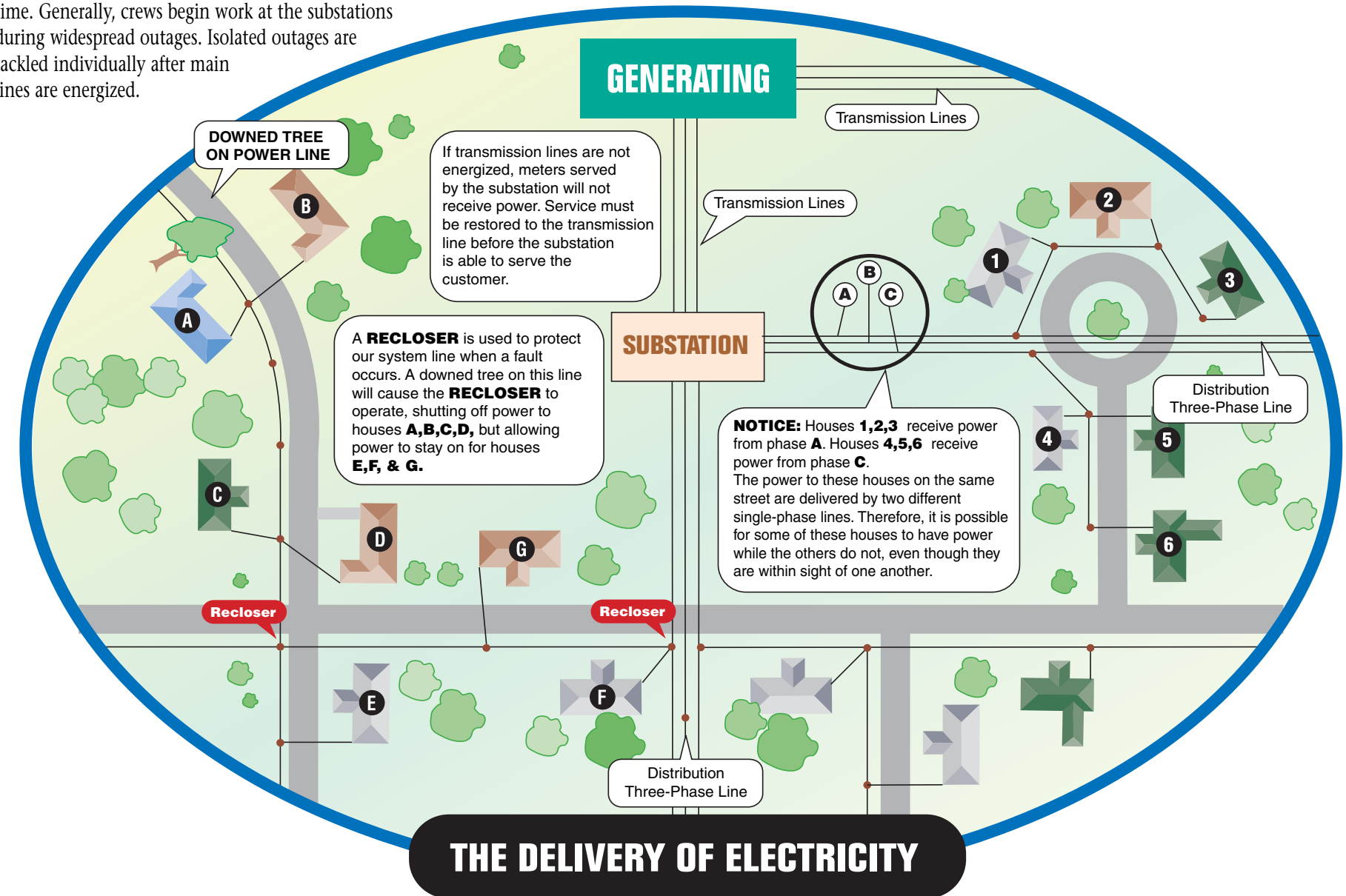
Southern Pine is grateful to Touchstone for his many years of devoted and knowledgeable service. We wish him and Shirley a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Tom Touchstone

# Power restoration follows efficient plan

Southern Pine Electric Power Association's emergency plan is designed to restore power to the most meters in the least time. Generally, crews begin work at the substations during widespread outages. Isolated outages are tackled individually after main lines are energized.



## Disaster Supply Kit

Southern Pine encourages you to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your family *before* a storm hits. Have a plan in place and practice it to save yourself unnecessary stress when a storm threatens.

- Water: at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food: at least enough for 3 to 7 days
- Bedding: blankets, pillows, etc.

- Clothing: seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- First-aid kit, prescription medicines
- Special items for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moisture wipes
- Telephones: fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a telephone set (not cordless)
- Radio: battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Flashlight, batteries
- Cash (with some small bills) and credit cards; banks and ATMs may be closed for an extended period

- Keys
- Toys, books, games
- Important documents: insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc.
- Tools: keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet-care items: identification, vaccination records, muzzle, leash, ample supply of food and water, medications, carrier or cage

Source: National Hurricane Center