

Southern Pine's service area vulnerable to storm-related outages

Southern Pine Electric Power Association's 11-county service area (at right) makes it especially vulnerable to powerful storm systems that sweep the southern half of Mississippi this time of year.

"Some part of our service area usually will be affected by high winds and lightning strikes when storms come through," said Penny McAlpin, director of Member Services.

"This spring, we had a lot of damage due to straight-line winds, thunderstorms and tornadoes throughout our service area," McAlpin added.

Power outages during storms are most often caused by trees or limbs falling onto power lines and lightning damage to electrical equipment on poles or in substations. Southern Pine dispatches emergency work crews immediately when power outages are reported to the cooperative, and a dispatcher is on duty at all times.

"If you see a downed power line, please call our office immediately," McAlpin said. "If the line is busy, keep trying and know that we are working hard to repair lines as quickly and as safely as possible."

If you experience a power outage or see damage to a power line or substation, please call the Southern Pine district office that serves you:

- Brandon: (601) 824-7070, (800) 698-9574
 - Newton: (601) 683-2200, (800) 698-9573
 - New Hebron: (601) 694-2711, (800) 698-9571
 - Taylorsville: (601) 785-6511, (800) 231-5240
- Hattiesburg branch: (601) 264-0185

