

# ECOA Power Outages down to 15,000

updated 12:47 p.m. ET, Thurs., Feb. 12, 2009

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas report that approximately 15,243 members remain without power after the ice storm late last month.

More than 4,200 line workers remain steadfast in their efforts to restore service to the members.

The cooperative personnel that are working to restore power are to be commended, said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

In a period of weeks crews have basically rebuilt large portions of electric distribution infrastructure that took decades to construct.

White said that in addition to line workers, office personnel at the cooperatives have worked around the clock to ensure that phones are answered and the line crews are supported.

At the peak of the outages, the cooperatives estimate that more than 210,300 members were without electric service and more than 32,000 poles were destroyed.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas urges cooperative members to use caution both within and outside their homes. Candles, lanterns, and temporary heating devices can pose a fire hazard.

Home generators should be properly vented to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, and they should be connected to home wiring through appropriate protective devices to prevent power from feeding back onto the utility's wires. Read more at [arkansasmatters.com](http://arkansasmatters.com).