

WFEC crews continue making repairs, some 75 transmission structures down

(Update – 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28)

ANADARKO - Conditions deteriorated overnight for both Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) and several of its member distribution cooperatives. Contractors are headed to WFEC's service area to assist with restoration efforts, as conditions are expected to worsen as the day progresses. Damage assessment will be continuing throughout the day, with additional destruction expected to be located.

Major damage is being reported in the Tuttle area, with an estimated 20 miles of 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line down. This line went down yesterday afternoon, falling onto U.S. Highway 81 and Oklahoma State Highway 92, closing those roads and blocking vehicles on the roadway. No injuries were reported.

As of early Wednesday, at least 75 transmission structures are down or heavily damaged. Numerous broken crossarms are also being found in several areas.

In addition to the Tuttle area, WFEC crews are also working on damaged transmission lines and structures in the Chickasha, Anadarko, El Reno, Hydro, Sickles, Dover, Reeding and Duke areas.

Emergency work orders have been opened for Kiowa, Caddo and Grady counties due to the extensive damage. Three 10 person contract crews and equipment will be starting today to assist in restoration, with additional contract crews being considered, as additional damage is being found. One to two inches of ice is coating the power lines in some areas, which could have devastating effects with the additional precipitation and winds that are still being forecasted throughout the day across WFEC's service territory.

In the past two days, crews have been primarily working to keep all substations hot, however, following further assessment today, new plans will likely be developed in light of the extensive damage that is being found. Several lines have been sectionalized to help in restoring power.

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Contact: Sondra Boykin, Communication Coordinator
Western Farmers Electric Cooperative
(405) 760-7659 – cell phone
s_boykin@wfec.com