

# Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC)

Allan Ruth, Incident Commander



# FECA

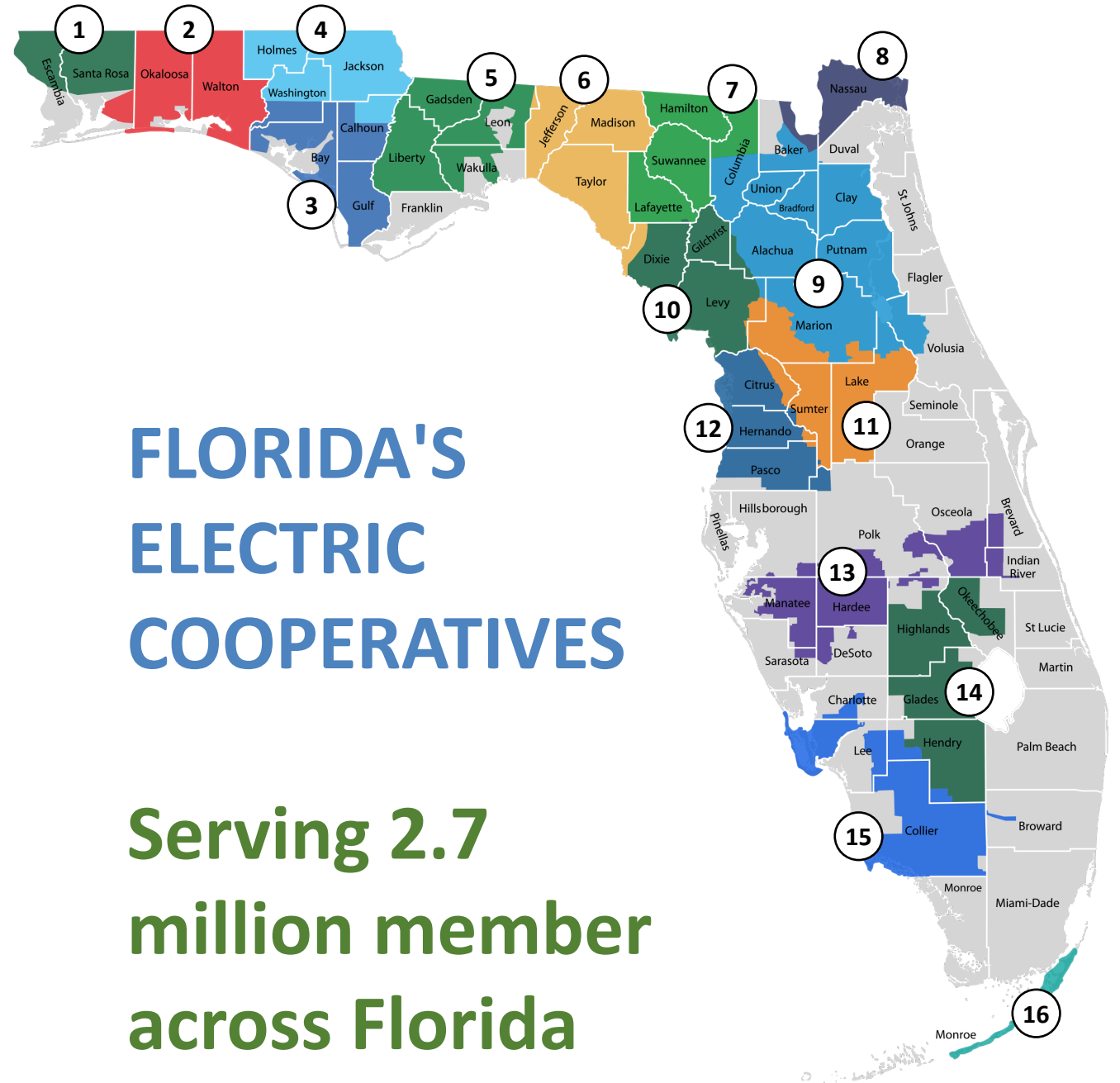
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc.

## DISTRIBUTION CO-OPS

1. Escambia River EC
2. CHELCO
3. Gulf Coast EC
4. West Florida EC
5. Talquin EC
6. Tri-County EC
7. Suwannee Valley EC
8. Okefenokee REMC
9. Clay EC
10. Central Florida EC
11. SECO Energy
12. Withlacoochee River EC
13. Peace River EC
14. Glades EC
15. Lee County EC
16. Florida Keys EC

## GENERATION & TRANSMISSION CO-OPS

1. PowerSouth Energy Cooperative
2. Seminole Electric Cooperative



# About Lee County Electric Cooperative

- Serving Portions of Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Monroe, Hendry and Lee Counties
- 245,000 Members
- 9,007 miles of energized lines
  - Transmission – 179 miles
  - Distribution overhead – 4,005 miles
  - Distribution underground – 732 miles
  - Secondary and services – 4,091 miles
- 26 Substations
- Approximately 430 Employees

# Vegetation Management

- Transmission
  - Annual visual inspection
    - Followed up with corrective actions
  - Annual reclaim projects (approximately 10 miles)
  - 179 miles of 138kV
- Distribution
  - Feeders: 3-year cycle
  - Laterals: 5-year cycle
  - Palm tree removal program
  - Customer request
  - Outage investigation
  - 3,978 miles of line





# Pole Inspections

- 2,186 transmission structures
  - 100% visual inspection
  - Climbing inspection: 2-year cycle
  - Change-out as identified
  - Ratio of poles
    - Concrete – 1,705
    - Steel & hybrid – 430
    - Wood – 51
- 167,633 distribution
  - ~16,000 poles inspected annually
  - Targeted pole change-out program: targets 2,500 annually
  - Ratio of poles
    - Wood – 150,590
    - Concrete – 16,730
    - Steel / aluminum – 343



# LCEC Service Territory



# Storm Preparation and Restoration Processes

- Annual Preparation
  - Spring drills
  - Incorporate Lessons Learned
  - State wide table top exercise
  - Table Top Exercises
- Mutual Aid & Contract Vendor Agreements
  - Storm Rate Contracts in place before June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Mutual Aid contract reviews and updates
  - Review expectations
- Materials
  - Increased inventory levels
  - Review staging areas and storm stock items





# Communication with Employees/Restoration Partners

- Internal Communication – SAFETY
  - Email
  - Online and Phone Hotline
  - Intranet
  - Sub-group meetings
- Vendors, Suppliers, Contractors



## HOW WE RESTORE POWER

LCEC customers are part of the cooperative that distributes electricity to more than 235,000 Southwest Floridians. The complex network that puts electricity where it needs to be – and does it quicker than you can say LCEC – is just like the parts of a car engine that work together to get you from point A to point B. The following is a diagram that explains how we go about completing repairs.

### AFTER A MAJOR EVENT... HERE'S HOW THE RESTORATION PROCESS WORKS



1. The first step in our restoration plan is damage assessment, which includes physical inspections of our facilities and plants. Once damage assessments have been made, LCEC begins repairs.



2. Next, we repair main circuits and critical facilities such as hospitals, police and fire stations.



3. The next goal is to restore services to the greatest number of customers as soon as possible.



4. Lastly, LCEC begins restoring power to those small pockets or individuals still without power.

**LCEC**  
PEOPLE. POWER. POSSIBILITIES.

[www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)



# Communication with Customers/Stakeholders

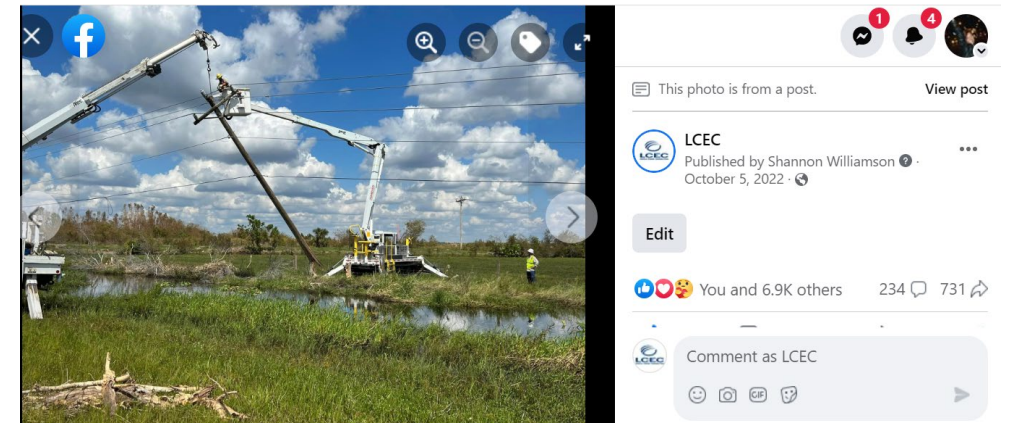
- External Communication
  - Lcec.net – Storm Center
  - SmartHub, LCEC News, Back of the Bill
  - LCEC Hurricane Guide
  - Advertising
  - Pre-Storm Presentations
  - Social Media
- Government Relations/EOC
- Media/Social Media
  - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube
  - Hurricane Guides
  - Public Presentations

Home » Reliability » Storm Center



## Storm Center

LCEC thoroughly prepares long before a hurricane threatens to make landfall in Southwest Florida. To ensure LCEC has the resources needed for restoration, the organization cultivates relationships with power line and tree-trimming contractors, fuel companies, material vendors, food service vendors, other cooperatives and local agencies for back-up resources.



# Resource Requirements

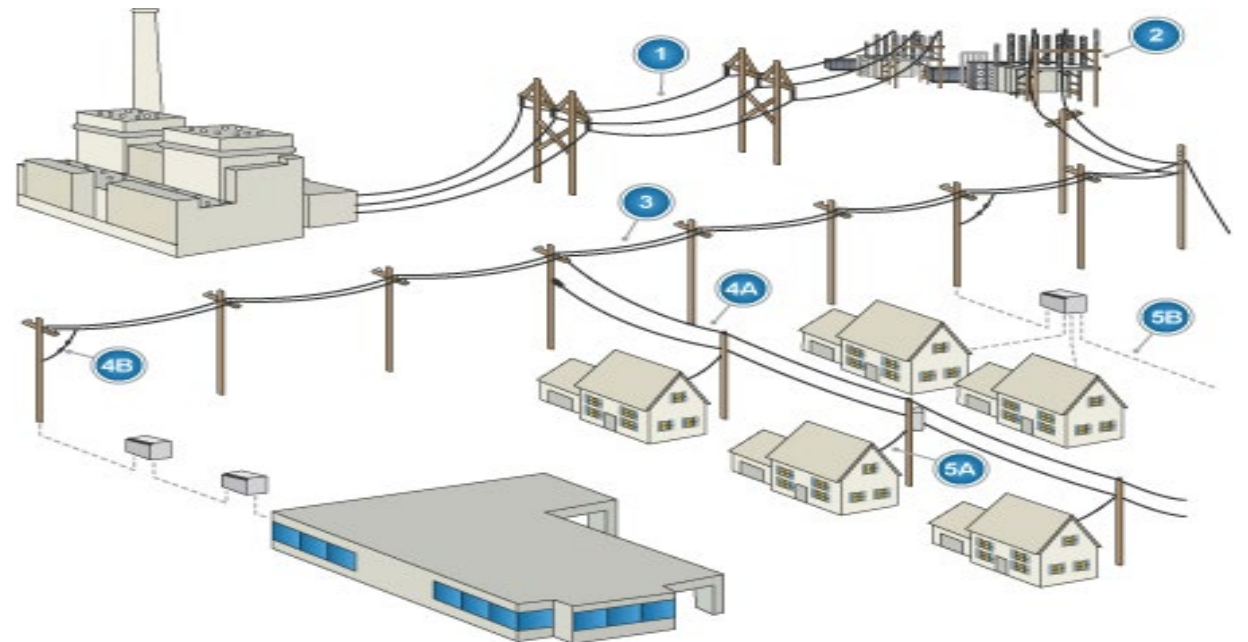
- Requirements that build on each other
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
  - Lodging
  - Food
  - Fuel
  - Materials

- The “go” decision use to be \$1 to \$2 million, today it is \$10 million



# Restoration Process

- Source Power
- LCEC Transmission
- Substations
- Main Feeders
- Key Accounts
- Large Customer Counts
- Small Customer Counts
- Individual Customers





# Material Inventory Issued for Rebuild & Restoration

- Critical Material Inventory Issued
- 1,950 transformers
- 3,042 poles
- 822,361 ft. OH conductor
- 84,250 ft. UG cable
- 1,388 crossarms
- 31,873 insulators
- 60,000 splices
- 15,585 fuse links
- 188,000 lbs. of crushed rock





# Lessons Learned from 2022 Storm Season

- Hurricane Ian
  - Plan design
    - Accommodate increased resource counts
    - Employee impacts 25% severe damage
  - Customer outreach
    - Broader application - In-person information stations/tents
    - Pre and post hurricane
  - Utilization of contractors and mutual aid outside of norms
    - Base Camps
    - Trucking
    - Warehouse
  - The Storm
    - Big and slow = trouble
    - Storm surge

