



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 3, 2024**

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### **KCEC Forest Fire Mitigation Update: July 3, 2024**

**Taos, New Mexico** - Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is diligently and actively working in its service territory to enhance forest fire mitigation. The recent rains, a much-needed relief, have brought significant precipitation to the area. However, KCEC is resuming its forest and wildfire mitigation strategy efforts, with tree trimming and operation crews working in priority areas of its service territory. This ongoing work is crucial for the safety and well-being of our communities.

KCEC wants to thank the US Forest Service for its invaluable collaboration in assisting with right-of-way clearances and removing potential obstructions to the internet and electric infrastructure. This partnership underscores KCEC's commitment to a comprehensive approach to mitigating forest fire impacts. We will continue to work closely with the Forest Service and other agencies to ensure the safety of our communities.

KCEC still has all its safety measures, including placing protective devices on non-reclose (the device will act like a fuse and only have one operation versus four) in forested areas. This may cause frequent and more prolonged power interruptions since, in the event of an outage, the protocol will be to patrol the affected area before restoring power.

KCEC encourages members to contact our offices if they notice any dangers that could interfere with an electrical line or cause a power disruption.

KCEC continues to focus on the following areas:

- Upper Red River Valley
- Taos Canyon and Valle Escondido
- NM 518 Corridor – Vadito eastward to the Mora County line
- El Valle, Ojo Sarco
- Cabresto Canyon in Questa
- Vallecitos, Canon Plaza, Petaca, Las Tablas, Elizabeth Town and Iron Mountain
- Idlewild, Lakeview Pines, Black Lake area (Black Lake Resorts and Hidden Lake)
- San Antonio Mountain, Los Pinos

KCEC wants to encourage those requiring power or internet for their medical devices or medication to contact:

Michael Santistevan - [msantistevan@kitcarson.com](mailto:msantistevan@kitcarson.com)

Luis Reyes - [lreyes@kitcarson.com](mailto:lreyes@kitcarson.com)

Registered medical devices and medication allow KCEC to make better decisions when addressing power and internet outages. Your information is vital.

KCEC is committed to keeping you informed and updated. We will continue to inform and update community members of any future planned outages and information regarding the extreme wildfire conditions. Rest assured, KCEC has crews on standby to address power disruptions. To receive further information, please contact CEO Luis Reyes at [lreyes@kitcarson.com](mailto:lreyes@kitcarson.com) or COO Richard Martinez at [rmartinez@kitcarson.com](mailto:rmartinez@kitcarson.com).

### **About Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of 16 electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com).

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