



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KCEC Wildfire Mitigation Update: March 19, 2025

Taos, NM—Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) appreciates the recent precipitation in the area; however, as we enter the high-fire-risk season, the likelihood of fire remains elevated. Additionally, extreme winds have increased, reaching speeds of 45 to 75 mph within KCEC's service territory. As of March 18, 2025, the US Forest Service fire danger status for the Carson National Forest is set to MODERATE. After the current snowfall and the beginning of the fire season, this is very alarming for KCEC. KCEC is monitoring the weather and will take appropriate action as the winds continue to affect our communities.



" We acknowledge the ever-present risk of a fire igniting at any moment, reminding us of the unpredictable nature of wildfires. By implementing a comprehensive, community-wide wildfire mitigation strategy, we can significantly enhance our preparedness. The more proactive and vigilant we are in our efforts to prevent and manage these blazes, the better equipped we will be to safeguard our homes, natural landscapes, and, most importantly, each other. Together, we can create resilient and thriving communities ready to face such challenges. " says KCEC CEO Luis A. Reyes Jr.

The [Mogote Fire](#), located south of Wagon Mound, has demonstrated the state's vulnerability to wildfires. As of March 17, 2026, the Mogote Fire has expanded to 21,000 acres and is approximately 60% contained. The expected cause is linked to a utility line.

KCEC and Kit Carson Internet have dedicated crews focused solely on tree trimming, electric, and internet maintenance. Most of the KCEC service territory is heavily forested and filled with large trees over 100 feet tall. These trees pose a high risk of uprooting and falling on utility lines, which can increase the likelihood of power interruptions.

KCEC crews will focus on tightening all hardware, such as hotline clamps, transformer connections, cross-arm braces, and secondary connections to the weather head-on service drops. Additionally, crews will check the fuse sizes for all taps and the sizes and counts of the Overcurrent Relays (OCRs). A separate crew will be assigned to measure and count all OCRs installed at the Arroyo Hondo, Los Cordovas (with REA and Ranchitos circuits

completed), and Talpa Substations. The following circuits will continue with crews performing tree trimming and operation maintenance in March:

- Petaca/ Las Tablas
- Rodarte
- Lake View Pines
- Ojo Caliente
- Twining
- Ranchitos
- Cabresto Canyon
- Costilla

KCEC urges members to report any hazards that may interfere with electrical lines or cause power outages, particularly in these areas.

Many rural KCEC members rely on electric and internet services for life-saving medical devices, medications, communication, and essential well-pump operations. During predicted extreme high-risk weather alerts, KCEC will implement a non-reclose operation for its infrastructure. This system promptly cuts power when an object or tree obstructs a power line. KCEC crews then inspect the line before restoring power. The non-reclose system is the best option for our members because it avoids a complete loss of critical services. KCEC asks members to be patient during any power outages.

Proactive forest fire prevention resources and information are available to members. Taos County recommends having "go bags" ready in case of an emergency. A list of resources is available to assist residents of our communities.

KCEC Service Territory Essential Community Resources

[Taos County Wildfire Plaza Website](#) - Taos County Wildfire Plaza is a place for people to share news, information and resources related to forest and watershed restoration and wildfire risk reduction.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

Wildfire risk reduction steps that can make your home safer during a wildfire

Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide

[Fire Prevention Programs](#)

Ready, Set Go New Mexico

This page has information about embers, insurance, Ready Set Go, and other aspects of fire prevention and education.

[Living With Fire page](#)

[Ready Set Go page](#)

These resources can help members prepare for wildfire events and provide steps homeowners can take to protect their properties. KCEC encourages members to review this information and take the necessary precautions for their families and homes. This guidance will also be beneficial when dealing with homeowners' insurance applications or renewals. KCEC encourages members to reach out to family and friends in rural areas, as many individuals in our communities require medical assistance.

KCEC is making significant progress with its clean energy projects, enhancing reliability and resilience throughout the region. Construction for the Amalia 8.75 MW solar and battery storage project is expected to begin this summer. Additionally, KCEC is developing three microgrid projects in its service area that aim to provide up to 38 MWh of extra battery energy storage systems, further improving reliability and resilience. These projects are anticipated to be operational by 2026. KCEC is also working on a significant green hydrogen initiative, which will deliver long-duration energy for times when solar power is not available. For more information, please visit kitcarson.com. KCEC collaborates with local safety and fire officials to ensure these facilities meet the highest safety standards.

In conclusion, KCEC is offering support to local federal employees affected by separation of employment. KCEC is partnering with the Taos Community Foundation (TCF) to provide additional grocery gift cards to eligible individuals. The cooperative will not disconnect electric, internet, or propane services for federal employees separated from employment. However, to avoid disconnection, it is crucial for these employees to contact KCEC, KCI, and KCP to establish a payment arrangement.

KCEC's "Members Helping Members" program will assist federal employees and their families with a one-time \$80 credit toward their electric bill. Kit Carson Internet (KCI) and Kit Carson Propane (KCP) will also provide a one-time \$50 credit for federal employees separated from employment, applicable to their KCI internet bill or KCP propane bill. To qualify for these credits, federal employees must be listed on an electric, internet, or propane account.

KCEC would like to thank Taos County, the Town of Taos, the Forest Service, NM State Forestry, the Taos County Chamber of Commerce, Taos Ski Valley, and UNM-Taos for their input and collaboration.

KCEC is more than just a cooperative; we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for our members and their families. For further information, please contact CEO Luis Reyes at lreyes@kitcarson.com or COO Richard Martinez at rmartinez@kitcarson.com. Visit us at kitcarson.com for more details.

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