



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCEC Wildfire Mitigation Update: April 02, 2025

Taos, NM— Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is providing ongoing updates to its members regarding wildfire mitigation efforts. The region is now benefiting from much-needed rainfall, accompanied by projected high winds. Persistent winds in the area increase the likelihood of service disruptions to our electric and internet infrastructure. KCEC encourages members to be prepared for unforeseen events that may spark a wildfire or cause additional wind squalls in the area. Our crews are actively maintaining infrastructure and conducting tree trimming, which is essential for the safety of our communities.

"Our communities are experiencing stronger winds at higher speeds. It's crucial to inform our members about the importance of fire safety. KCEC crews are working diligently to help ensure the safety of our residents. While we cannot predict the weather, we can do our best to be prepared by conducting routine maintenance and tree trimming," says KCEC CEO Luis A. Reyes Jr.

As of April 1, 2025, the Carson National Forest Service indicates that the fire danger level remains at MODERATE. KCEC is resuming extensive maintenance work in several areas to ensure our members continue to have reliable power and internet services. Many fire departments throughout the region have implemented daily burn bans. KCEC will monitor weather conditions and take appropriate action as necessary.

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 will then inspect the line before restoring power. The non-reclose system is the best option for our members because it helps avoid a complete loss of critical services. KCEC asks members to be patient during any power outages.

KCEC's electrical system is now operating normally. All protective devices, including fuses, reclosers, and relays, function according to standard procedures. KCEC will continue to monitor and assess the system. Based on extreme weather, KCEC will set certain parts to non-reclose mode and notify members of these changes.

Maintenance crews will continue to work on all circuits, including mainlines and taps, on April 1, 2025. They 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, the crews will conduct fuse sizing for all taps and document the sizes and counts of all installed OCRs at the Arroyo Hondo, Los Cordovas (with REA and Ranchitos circuits already completed), and Talpa Substations. The circuits scheduled for maintenance in April are:

- Upper Red River
- Ranchitos Circuit (25% complete)
- Valle Escondido
- Ojo Caliente Circuit
- Ute Park
- Lower Llano San Juan and El Valle
- Los Pinos
- Patrol 69 kV from Questa to NA Substation

Area(s) completed fully/partially:

- Two spans in Cabresto completed
- Ranchos Feeder (LC2)- Trimmed 30% of the feeder
- Rodarte 3 phase complete
- Petaca/Las Tablas Circuit (40% complete)
- Lake View Pines (40% complete)
- Twining Circuit (60% complete)

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

Members have access to proactive forest fire prevention resources and information. 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.

[Taos County Emergency Checklist Information](#)- The following checklists are helpful guides for stocking up on essential items and preparing for emergencies.

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 contact family and friends in rural areas, as many individuals in our communities require medical assistance.

In conclusion, KCEC owns or operates 20 solar arrays across its service area to ensure the reliability of its system. This year, KCEC is constructing its second-largest solar array in Amalia, NM, adding 8.75 MW of solar generation. Once completed, KCEC's total solar generation will be approximately 50 MW. Additionally, KCEC has three battery storage microgrid projects scheduled to begin construction this year, which will help support the system during extreme weather and emergencies. For more information on these projects, please visit kitcarson.com

[KCEC Green Hydrogen Project](#)
[KCEC Microgrid Project](#)

On April 22, 2025, KCEC will break ground on an additional 8.75 MW solar array and a corresponding 8.75 MW battery energy storage system with a four-hour capacity (35 MWh). KCEC encourages the public to attend. For more details, please [click here](#).

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, Taos Community Foundation and UNM-Taos for their input and collaboration.

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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