

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 31, 2023**

## **4-County crews on way to storm-ravaged Florida**

A 12-man crew from 4-County Electric Power Association left early this morning on its way to Florida to assist a sister cooperative in restoring power to residents there hit by high winds, storm surge and other elements associated with Hurricane Idalia.

The crew (an all-volunteer group) left Columbus about 8 a.m. today (Thursday), on its way to Central Florida Electric Cooperative, with headquarters based in Chiefland. Central Florida Electric has a little over 35,200 meters and is reporting about 45 percent are without power as of this morning.

Initial reports from the area indicate the damage seems to include broken poles, downed lines and other structural damage. In addition to the crews, 4-County sent several large pieces of equipment to assist in the recovery process, including bucket trucks, digger-derrick trucks and service/pickup trucks.

4-County crews are expected to remain in the area for at least a week (maybe longer), depending on the severity of the damage and the prospect of additional assistance from other cooperatives around the nation. 4-County and other cooperatives around the nation operate under a reciprocal agreement to provide help to each other in times of crisis. Rural electric cooperatives across Mississippi are responding to the call for help.

4-County employees leaving for Florida include: Tim Adkins (Heavy Construction Foreman), Derek Dawkins (Journeyman Lineman), Tanner Owen (Apprentice Lineman 2), Corey Kilgore (Journeyman Lineman), Drew Williamson (Pre-Apprentice Lineman), Tony Glenn (Apprentice Lineman 3), Tim Hardy (Apprentice Lineman 2), Wayne Scarbrough (Crew Leader), Cole Morgan (Apprentice Lineman 3), Shaw Adcock (Apprentice Lineman 1), Wesley Champion (Journeyman Lineman), and Jonathan Edwards (Lead Mechanic).

“We are glad to be in a position to send this assistance to help restore power to members of Central Florida Electric,” said 4-County Manager of Operations Anthony Miller. “Our system and members have been the recipients of assistance from other electric cooperatives and we are always glad to be able to help others when they need assistance. That’s the cooperative way.”

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