



## AECT Member Companies: Responding to Hurricane Katrina

With Hurricane Katrina poised to be the most damaging natural disaster ever to hit the United States, AECT member companies have worked to offer all available assistance to get the power in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama back online. In the Hurricane's immediate aftermath, AECT member companies had more than 1,400 employees and contractors hard at work.

Outside Texas, the national operations of AECT member companies have sent another 1,500 employees and contractors to join Entergy's 10,000 field employees to aid the Gulf Coast's massive restoration efforts.

In addition, AECT companies and employees have pledged over \$3.3 million to the American Red Cross and the Power of Hope Fund—a charity launched by Entergy, which is based in New Orleans.

### Examples of volunteer efforts in Texas by AECT Member Companies and their Employees

- AEP Texas has held several Katrina fundraising events at its Corpus Christi headquarters, with others planned.
- CenterPoint Energy has been responsible for logistics operations at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center evacuee facility at the request of Mayor Bill White.
- El Paso Electric employees are volunteering to assist evacuees at the El Paso Civic Center.
- Reliant Energy employees have been responsible for more than 5,600 volunteer hours involving 1,400 employees at Houston's evacuee centers.
- Texas-New Mexico Power Company is making available its payment centers and other facilities to be used as collection points for food and other emergency supplies.
- TXU has adopted 18 family members of two Entergy employees, providing emergency care and donations from employees to completely furnish four households.
- Xcel Energy employees are volunteering to assist evacuees flown from New Orleans to the Amarillo Civic Center for shelter.

### Closer to Home

With the massive influx of evacuees from the storm-ravaged states into Texas, electric utilities and retail electric providers have taken steps to provide special assistance in setting up electric service. Some are providing discounted service, while all are waiving deposits for evacuees signing up for new service.

Also, customers are receiving expedited start-up service to make sure they receive power as quickly as possible.

