Electric Co-op
Hurricane Preparedness
and Lessons Learned

Bill Willingham
Exec. V.P. & General Manager
Florida Electric Cooperatives Assn.
Florida’s Electric Co-ops

• 16 distribution cooperatives
  • Several also own and operate some transmission
  • Predominately serve residential, agricultural, and small commercial

• 2 wholesale generation and transmission coops that serve 13 distribution cooperatives

• Collectively serve over 1,000,000 meters
  • Approximately 11% of Florida’s population
  • More than 60% of Florida’s land mass
FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION

Cooperatives listed by county
FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION

Cooperatives listed by county
Pre-Storm Season Activities

• Hardening
• Review and update mutual aid plan
  – Meet with co-op coordinators in other states
  – Review state plan with member co-ops
• Co-ops review and update their storm plans and perform mock exercise
• Co-ops update contracts with vendors
Hardening Efforts

• Most co-ops have hardened their design and material standards since 2004
• Co-ops have aggressive vegetation management programs
• Most co-ops have modified their underground policy to lower the cost differential
  – But we try to avoid using underground in coastal and flood prone areas
FECA’s Storm Plan

• Annually update and review statewide plan with members

• Mutual aid
  – FECA coordinates mutual aid with more than 800 co-ops and the coordinators meet annually
  – Mutual aid agreement includes all municipals too

• FECA also is liaison to State EOC
Co-op Pre-Storm Plans

• Contractors and vendors
  – Line crews, materials, housing (including basecamps), vehicle fueling, caterers, etc.

• Communication plans for pre and post impact
  – Members, EOCs, media, elected officials
  – Most improved area since 2005 due to outage maps, texting, multimedia, external call centers, and automated telephone response messaging

• Identify priority accounts
Lessons Learned

• Need to practice statewide plan if no hurricanes for several years
• Communications and scope of management for outside crews significantly improves with connected devices
• Calls drop significantly if multimedia is updated regularly