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AMEA Members respond to call for assistance in north Alabama following deadly storms

When the call came for assistance in north Alabama last week, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) Members quickly responded. AMEA Members moved into hard hit areas of north Alabama to help with power restoration efforts in the wake of deadly storms that moved through Alabama on April 27.

Alabama was the hardest hit of six states, reporting some 236 people dead after tornadoes and dangerous wind storms ripped through the state.

Through the coordinated efforts of Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA), a coalition of the state's 36 municipally-owned electric utilities, Alabama's electric cities were quick to respond to calls for assistance. Alabama's electric cities span the state from the Tennessee Valley region in the north to the Gulf and Wiregrass regions of the south. ECA members serve approximately one million customers.

Jonathan Hand, ECA Executive Director, began coordinating power restoration assistance from Alabama's electric cities shortly after the storms swept through north Alabama. In the hours after the storms, 13 electric cities in Alabama, including AMEA Members, were traveling to the effect-

ed areas of the state, including Athens, Cullman, Florence, Guntersville, Huntsville, Tarrant, Tuscumbia and Sheffield. Hand also coordinated assistance with municipal statewide associations in Florida, Georgia and Indiana, as well as the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association.

“Sending crews to help our fellow electric cities is part of who we are,” Hand said. “This happens in times of disaster...brothers helping brothers. Electric cities throughout Alabama have a long tradition of working with member and neighboring utilities to help restore electricity in a timely and safe manner. And in times of trouble here in Alabama, we can count on these same utilities to come to our aid.”

AMEA, located in Montgomery, is the wholesale power provider for 11 public power utilities in Alabama, which serve some 350,000 customers in the cities of Alexander City, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley, LaFayette, Lanett, Luverne, Opelika, Piedmont, Sylacauga, and Tuskegee.