

Empire Electric Association, Inc.



PRESS RELEASE

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“Our primary mission is to safely, responsibly, and reliably meet the electrical energy needs of our member-owners.”

Energy Experts
Working for You!

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Substation Transformer Failure Causes Outage in Mancos Area

Mobile Substation in Place to Provide Temporary Service to EEA Members

Cortez, CO - Empire Electric Association experienced a widespread outage on the eastern side of its service area at 10:39 AM on Thursday August 4. The outage involved almost 1,700 meters in the town of Mancos and the surrounding community. EEA and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association crews responded immediately and determined the transmission voltage transformer had failed and was not repairable.

EEA responded by enacting its emergency power restoration plan using pre-planned connections designed to provide power from nearby EEA substations in the event of a substation failure. The East Cortez and Dolores substations were used to back feed power to Mancos to provide temporary power to as many meters as possible. EEA had restored power to approximately 1,400 meters by late Thursday afternoon.

As EEA crews were implementing the restoration plan, Tri-State coordinated the delivery of a mobile substation from Montrose, CO, and began preparing the substation for its connection. Both cooperatives' crews worked through the night and were able to place the mobile substation into service restoring power to all EEA members by 6:58 AM Friday August 5.

"We appreciate our member's patience and understanding as Empire and Tri-State crews worked to restore power" remarked EEA General Manager Josh Dellinger. "We understand reliability is important and that's why we have plans in place and design our system to be able to respond to these emergencies. We appreciate Tri-State's efforts to help restore power quickly. At times like this the cooperative business model shines brightly."

Information on how to prepare for an outage can be found at eea.coop. Please remember to turn off or unplug sensitive electronic devices during an outage to reduce the chance they may be damaged when power is restored.

Andy Carter
Member Engagement Manager