




La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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LPEA Implements Proactive Fire Measures Due to Red Flag Warnings

DURANGO, Colo. —The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag warning for our area through Sunday due to critical fire weather conditions and critical fuels. As a result of these warnings, the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is taking action to ensure the safety of its members, infrastructure, surrounding communities, and environment. Specifically, LPEA has adjusted its operations to reduce the risk of our power lines contributing to forest fires. As a result of the Red Flag warning and our changed operations, some communities may experience longer and more frequent outages.

A Red Flag warning is issued when specific weather conditions, such as warm temperatures, extremely low humidities, and stronger winds, create a heightened risk of fire danger. To effectively mitigate this risk, LPEA is implementing our fire-safety protocols using new infrastructure and technology that has been installed since the 416 Fire. Our enhanced electric infrastructure is equipped to automatically detect and de-energize immediately upon contact with any potential fire hazard. This proactive measure enables us to limit the risk of fire from downed power lines by turning off the power to that line. After our technology has notified us of a downed line, we immediately mobilize line crews to physically assess the situation and ensure when it is safe to restore power.

LPEA understands that longer and more frequent outages can disrupt daily routines and activities. However, LPEA firmly believes that prioritizing safety is paramount for the well-being of its members, the protection of its infrastructure, and the protection of our member's properties and homes.

"We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during these critical Red Flag days and in our change in operations to prioritize safety and to help prevent and mitigate any of our lines from causing potential forest fires," said Jessica Matlock, CEO of LPEA.

LPEA remains committed to keeping its members informed about any developments and changes in its operations. The company will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. Members are encouraged to stay connected with LPEA through its website and social media channels for the latest information.

LPEA appreciates the understanding, support, and cooperation of its members during this critical time. By working together, LPEA and its members can prioritize safety and protect the beloved community from the risks associated with wildfires. For more information visit the LPEA outage center at lpea.coop/outage-center.

About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata, Archuleta, and segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to

provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to more than 48,000 meters. For additional information, visit lpea.coop.

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