

For immediate release: April 28, 2016



Electric co-ops join with American Red Cross to improve emergency relief
Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives provide relief vehicle/trailer

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are partnering with the American Red Cross to improve emergency response services in Kentucky. The cooperatives have joined together to acquire a new disaster relief vehicle, trailer and resources that can be deployed to provide aid.

"The cooperatives are committed to people, especially in times of crisis," said Joe Settles, East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) Manager of Member Services. "This partnership with the American Red Cross is one more way we are looking out for our members."

"Thanks to the support and partnership of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, the Red Cross can continue to respond to disasters with the generous contribution of a vehicle and trailer, which can hold essential supplies. Their support ensures we continue to help families and individuals with the immediate emergency needs one may have and help them on their road to recovery," said Jennifer Adrio, Red Cross Kentucky Region CEO.

The new trailer and emergency vehicle are branded with the Touchstone Energy logo to recognize the partnership with the Red Cross. The partnership has also helped to stock the trailer with emergency supplies.

The new equipment provided by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives improves the Red Cross's ability to render aid to those needing emergency assistance, including the state's 1.5 million people (about 35 percent of the state's population) served by electric cooperatives.

"We take every precaution to prepare our systems for natural disasters," Settles said. "This new Red Cross vehicle will supplement what our co-op response teams do when help is needed the most."

The equipment is being added to the Red Cross's fleet of emergency response vehicles. It will be housed in Lexington, but it can be called out to respond to disasters in any area of the state.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters such as floods, tornados and winter storms. The Kentucky Region of the American Red Cross serves 119 counties through five regional chapters.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives encourage people to take advantage of Red Cross emergency preparedness information before disasters strike. Find information in the Emergency Resource Library at www.redcross.org under Get Help. The Red Cross also offers several mobile apps to keep you safe during an emergency.

The co-op sponsorship will also help support the American Red Cross Blood Bus Campaign to upgrade the organization's fleet of bloodmobiles.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative providing wholesale electricity to 16 owner-member distribution cooperatives that serve 530,000 Kentucky homes, farms, businesses and industries across 87 counties. EKPC provides power through coal-fueled plants located in Mason, Clark and Pulaski counties; natural gas-fueled peaking units in Clark and Oldham counties; renewable energy plants in Boone, Laurel, Greenup, Hardin, Barren and Pendleton counties; and nearly 2,800 miles of transmission lines. Together, EKPC and its 16 owner-member cooperatives are known as Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Visit EKPC at www.ekpc.coop

For more information, contact:

Kevin Osbourn, EKPC Manager of Communications, (859) 771-3100
Kevin.osbourn@ekpc.coop

— END —