

WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

LTE Wirehand Wireless Internet Upgrade

Updated: January 30, 2018

EL CAMPO, TX – Wharton County Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce a major upgrade to our Wirehand Wireless Internet services. In July of 2017, TelRad LTE equipment was installed on the El Campo Wirehand tower initiating an 80-user pilot project. The equipment upgrade allows for LTE speed and reliability to our users.

“In early 2017, we began researching the latest technology and equipment to provide higher throughput and more reliable service to our Wirehand Wireless Internet users,” says Manager of IT Keith Beal. “We tested the LTE equipment and it exceeded our expectations.”

Due to the success of the pilot project, WCEC will move forward to install upgraded equipment to all towers on our network. Currently, users who connect to our El Campo and Taiton towers can upgrade their equipment to receive faster, more reliable service.

There is no additional cost to receive upgraded equipment for the home. Package pricing will also remain the same. All new users to upgraded coverage areas will receive upgraded equipment during installation.

WCEC will announce the upgrade status of all other coverage areas as they are brought online. These areas include Hillje, Danevang, Nada, Mackay and surrounding areas. However, users may contact the WCEC office at 979-543-6271 to join the waiting list in each coverage area.

“We will install equipment on each tower individually and energize one tower location at a time to ensure stability of the network,” Beal stated. “Once a tower is online, we can begin installing the upgraded home equipment in that coverage area.”

Wharton County Electric Cooperative began offering Wirehand Wireless Internet service in 2006 to meet the need for broadband service in rural areas. The Wirehand network currently serves over 500 users in coverage areas located within 5-10 miles of our network towers. A site inspection is required before a new installation can take place. WCEC also offers Exede Satellite Internet for those users who are outside the Wirehand coverage areas.

For more information, please contact the IT Department at 979-543-6271.