



WCEC PRESS RELEASE

Wirehand Wireless LTE Upgrade Don't Get Left Behind

August 7, 2018

EL CAMPO, TX – EL CAMPO, TX – Wharton County Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the completion of the first phase of 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 moved forward to install upgraded equipment to the majority of the towers on our network. Danevang, Hillje and Taiton were brought online throughout the later part of 2017 and early 2018. The Nada tower was delayed due to repairs being done on the tower itself, and was completed in July. With the completion of the Nada tower, phase one of the update draws to a close.

“We installed equipment on each tower individually and energized one tower location at a time to ensure stability of the network,” Beal stated. “Once a tower was brought online, we began installing the upgraded home equipment in that coverage area.”

WCEC network technicians will now focus on upgrading the rest of our users’ home equipment which allows them to take advantage of the faster, more reliable network. There is no additional cost to receive upgraded equipment for the home. Package pricing will also remain the same.

Additionally, in order to better maintain the newer LTE-compatible network, the older network equipment will be phased out on each tower. This phase will begin with the decommissioning of equipment on the El Campo, Taiton and Danevang towers at the end of September, and at the end of October for Hillje and Nada.

Removing the older equipment will have no effect on users who have upgraded their home equipment. However, those with older equipment will not be able to connect to the Wirehand network afterward.

Therefore, all Wirehand Wireless users who have not had their home equipment upgraded need to call 979-543-6271 to schedule an upgrade appointment.

For more information, contact the I.T. Department at 979-543-6271.