

As August comes to an end I have been watching the news and all channels are talking about the incredible devastation in Houston, Texas and other Texas towns in the wake of hurricane Harvey.

Houston alone saw over 56 inches of rain. Port Arthur and sections of Louisiana have seen over 26 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. This is an absolutely incredible amount of water to fall out of the sky in a 24 hour period. I cannot even start to imagine how hard it was raining.

My wife and I were in Hawaii several years ago when we had 6 inches of rain over night and I didn't think it could rain any harder. Obviously it can.

I have been keeping track of power outages in the state of Texas due to the rain and high water.

Victoria Electric Coop had 23,000 meters out, Guadalupe Valley Electric Coop 18,000 meters out, San Patricio Electric Coop had 11,000 meters out. All told, initial estimates throughout rural Texas and Louisiana as of Tuesday the 29th of August approximately 288,000 people were without power.

This number doesn't say anything about the number of people who have lost virtually everything they own due to the high water. Imagine seeing your house with 10 feet of water in it. This water is some of the filthiest water you can imagine. It has everything in it from raw sewage to petroleum products to dead animals including a few dead humans. Imagine having to try and make your house livable after something like this.

My heart goes out to the people of Texas and Louisiana.

A few things for thought. These natural disasters snap up electrical pieces and parts at an incredible rate. It will be almost impossible to buy transformers and power poles for quite some time. Even little things may be hard to get. Here at INNEC we try and stock basic necessities BUT if it is something large there is going to be a long lead time. In other words, get in line and wait for it to be built. I hope nothing breaks that we can't replace with parts in stock. Houston, Texas has some of the USA's largest oil refineries I fully expect the price of fuel to go up. Imagine the lumber that is going to be needed to rebuild the tens of thousands of houses in Texas alone. It wouldn't surprise me if the price of lumber goes up and availability goes down.

Watching all of this unfold on TV just serves to remind me of how lucky we are to live where we live and have what we have. Most of all I am happy I live on a hill!!!

I hope everyone had a great August and has a fantastic September!!