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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LPEA Implements Proactive Fire Measures Due to Red Flag Warning**

**DURANGO, Colo. (April 17, 2025)** — In response to a Red Flag warning issued by the National Weather Service, highlighting critical fire weather conditions and fuels, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is taking proactive steps to safeguard its members, infrastructure, surrounding communities, and the environment. Red Flag conditions are expected **today from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, particularly in areas **west of Bayfield and south of Highway 160 to the La Plata County and Archuleta County lines**, where fire settings will be in effect during those hours. Operations have been adjusted to minimize the risk of wildfires potentially sparked by power lines. These changes may lead to longer and more frequent power outages in some communities.

A Red Flag warning is triggered by specific weather conditions—warm temperatures, extremely low humidities, and stronger winds—that significantly increase the risk of fire. LPEA is employing new infrastructure and technology, which has been implemented since the 416 Fire, to enhance fire safety. This advanced electric infrastructure is designed to automatically detect and deactivate upon encountering a potential fire hazard. Such proactive measures significantly curtail the risk posed by downed power lines by immediately shutting off electricity to the affected line. Following detection, line crews are promptly deployed to securely assess and rectify the situation before power is restored.

Understanding the inconvenience caused by frequent and prolonged outages, LPEA emphasizes that the safety of its community and the protection of personal and public properties are of utmost importance. "We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during these critical Red Flag days," said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. "Our operational changes, though potentially disruptive, are crucial for prioritizing safety."

LPEA values the support and cooperation of its members during this critical period. By uniting efforts, LPEA and its members can emphasize safety and shield their community from the severe risks posed by wildfires.

For additional information, please visit the LPEA outage center at [lpea.coop/outage-center](https://lpea.coop/outage-center).

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