



For Release: June 29, 2012

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NEWS UPDATE

Duluth, Minn.— Minnesota Power urges its customers to stay safe when restoring power to their homes and businesses after the recent flood. Here are some reminders on how to manage water-damaged appliances and how to get your power reconnected.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

If you have electrical equipment that has come into contact with floodwater, disconnect the power (from a breaker box) from a dry and safe location. If no safe location is available to disconnect power, contact Minnesota Power at 218-722-2625 and follow the prompts to speak to a customer service representative to request that your electric service be disconnected. There is no charge for this service.

Do not re-energize any electrical wiring or electrical equipment that has been exposed to floodwater. Floodwater can contain raw sewage, pesticides, metals, petroleum products, chemicals, and other highly conductive compounds. Electrical wiring and equipment exposed to floodwater must be replaced.

HOW DO I GET MY POWER RESTORED?

In the city of Duluth, the city electrical inspector directs the replacement of electrical wiring. The city's Office of Building Safety has instructed Minnesota Power to follow specific rules for structures damaged by floodwaters.

For more information, please visit http://www.duluthmn.gov/building_safety/

Outside the city of Duluth, the replacement of electrical wiring is directed by the state electrical inspector who is part of the Department of Labor and Industry. Minnesota Power has been directed to only reconnect electrical service to systems that:

- Have not been submerged in floodwater, or
- Have been submerged but replaced with the necessary inspections completed.

Minnesota Power cannot reconnect electrical service to your home if the wiring has been flooded. This might include items being under water such as electrical outlets, switches, light sockets or wiring, household appliances, dehumidifiers, etc. In these cases, customers will need to hire a certified/licensed contractor before electrical service can be re-connected.

Advice and instructions for how to deal with flooded structures are available at these websites:

http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/flood_electrical.pdf

http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/flood_top.pdf

Minnesota Power wants its customers to be safe. If you have questions, call Minnesota Power at 218-722-2625 and follow the prompts to Customer Service.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 144,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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