

Media Advisory

Minnesota Power crews working to restore power after severe summer storms

Island Lake area and Deer River hardest hit

Duluth, Minn.— Minnesota Power line crews are restoring power as quickly and safely as possible after severe storms blew through the region Tuesday night.

The hardest-hit areas were Deer River, where about 617 customers are without power, and the Island Lake area north of Duluth, where about 310 customers are affected by an outage.

High winds blew hundreds of trees onto power lines in Deer River, where crews were replacing 7-10 toppled or damaged power poles and working on 40 downed power lines. The biggest job involves removing the trees so line crews can safely repair damage to power lines and replace broken power poles.

“Our priority is to get the Essentia Health Deer River hospital up, and to get the Deer River High School up,” said Dan Gunderson, director of distribution operations for Minnesota Power. Once power is restored to the school, it will become a shelter for people displaced by the storms.

Gunderson said most Deer River customers should have power by 6 p.m. Wednesday, though some individual services might take until Thursday to repair. Customers can report an outage by calling the Minnesota Power call center at (800) 307-6937.

“We are doing everything we can to restore power in Deer River, and they will see our crews through the evening and for the next couple of days,” Gunderson said.

There were about 50 reports of trees on wires or wires down in the Island Lake and Gnesen Township areas but that number is expected to grow as more reports of damage continue to come in. Line crews there expect to be working into Wednesday evening and possibly into the morning hours to restore power as home and cabin owners assess their properties and report problems.

Minnesota Power has called in additional resources to assist with restoration efforts, dispatching crews from Little Falls, Park Rapids, Pine River and Crosby to assist local crews in Deer River. Superior Water, Light and Power has also sent a crew to help Minnesota Power. Additional crews have also been called to the Island Lake area.

In addition to the Deer River and Island Lake areas, power was out for about 63 customers in the Alborn area and 59 customers north of French River, where power is expected to be restored by 3 p.m. Customers in the Meadowlands area had power restored at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, when crews finished replacing three power poles.

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.

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