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# ***Media advisory***

## **Minnesota Power assessing damage to infrastructure in wake of heavy storm damage and calling in additional resources**

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power is conducting aerial assessments of its infrastructure following heavy storm damage across its service territory Thursday morning. Once the assessment is complete, more information about estimated restoration schedules will be known. As of Thursday morning, about 36,000 customers are estimated to be without power, including customers in Duluth, Cloquet, and the Brainerd Lakes area.

Among the hardest-hit areas is the city of Duluth where an estimated one-third of the city's 65,000 customers are without power. An estimated 100 power poles were broken by trees brought down by the storm and will need to be replaced. The affected area is a 10-mile swath from Island Lake to Lake Superior in the eastern part of Duluth.

Restoration efforts will focus first on the transmission system before outages to the distribution system, which feeds residential and business customers, are addressed. Removing trees and downed power lines from public roadways will be the first priority in coordination with St. Louis County and the City of Duluth.

All line crews have been called in to assist along with 15 tree removal crews. The company has enacted its emergency response plan and will call on mutual aid to bring in additional line workers from utilities across the state to assist with restoration efforts. Some customers in Duluth and the surrounding area may experience multiday outages and should prepare accordingly. Excessive heat watches and warnings are in effect and customers should take care to remain safe. Tips include:

- Close shades
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Home basements may be cooler
- Visit friends who have power
- Look after neighbors who may be susceptible to the heat

Customers are strongly warned to stay away from downed power lines and to expect the lines are energized. Energized lines pose an extreme hazard. Keep pets and children away from those areas. Do not attempt to remove trees on public property or roadways as many trees are entangled with downed power lines.

For more outage updates and information go to [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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](http://www.mnpower.com).

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