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# NEWS

## **Update: Minnesota Power calls in more resources to help restore power in storm-damaged Duluth**

Duluth, Minnesota—Minnesota Power called in additional resources tonight as it continues to make progress in restoring power to customers following this week's severe storms in northern and central Minnesota.

Crews are discovering damage is more extensive than initial assessments indicated as they are able to gain access to more residential areas, especially in Duluth which was especially hard-hit in the Thursday morning storm. An additional 70 lineworkers from M.J. Electric will join Minnesota Power crews and the 56 lineworkers from St. Louis, Mo., who arrived Friday. The additional resources will bring the total number of lineworkers involved in restoration efforts to 226 along with another 200 support staff including 30 tree removal crews. Crews working 16-hour days have made steady progress and residents can expect to see crews and trucks in their neighborhoods throughout the weekend.

By late Friday, the company had restored power to 21,000 of the 46,000 affected at the height of the storm; 25,000 customers remain without power. That number is expected to drop this evening as crews continue to restore service and relay information from the field. The recent storm caused widespread damage to dozens of communities across the company's service territory. Fallen trees downed power lines and broke an estimated 100 power poles. Affected communities include Island Lake, Hackensack, and Cloquet, the city of Rice Lake and Fredenburg and Gnesen Townships.

Minnesota Power officials say it's the worst storm to affect the company's electrical system in the Duluth area in 15 years. The Woodland neighborhood, the city of Rice Lake, and Lakewood Township were especially hard hit where large trees uprooted by the strong winds tore down power lines. The damage is so severe in these areas and access so challenging, restoration efforts are expected to continue throughout the weekend.

Power restoration in this situation is a phased approach. Public safety and critical infrastructure is the first priority. Crews begin with the larger transmission lines, move to the primary distribution lines, and then move into neighborhoods to repair individual services.

This approach allows us to restore power to a larger number of customers as quickly as possible, helps eliminate exposure to hazardous safety conditions such as low-hanging energized lines, and allows us to restore critical loads such as hospitals and public safety as quickly as possible. Damaged transformers serving multiple customers are repaired first, then transformers serving individual customers.

Customers who have damage to the mast on their home will need to contact an electrician for repairs before Minnesota Power can restore power to the residence. The mast is what the power line connects to on a customer's house.

Minnesota Power cautions everyone to stay clear of any downed power lines, poles and wires as they could still be 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 the Outage Center at <http://www.mnpower.com/> or follow Minnesota Power 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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