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NEWS

Power outages shrinking as Minnesota Power continues to respond to last week's catastrophic storm

Duluth, Minnesota—Minnesota Power has restored power to significant numbers of customers in Duluth and outlying areas in the wake of last week's severe storms.

By Monday morning, less than 3,500 were without power, many of them in the “ground zero” Duluth neighborhoods of Woodland, Lakeside, Hunters Park and Morley Heights where damage from fallen trees is severe and access to lines and poles is more challenging. About 200 workers and 100 trucks will be in those areas today. While the company expects the majority of remaining customers to be restored earlier, some may not have service until Thursday.

Minnesota Power made significant headway in restoring power over the weekend. By late Sunday, about 21,000 of the 25,000 who were without electricity Friday evening had their power back on. Some 46,000 customers lost power at the height of the storm that hit last Thursday. Minnesota Power officials say it is the worst storm to affect the company's electrical system in the Duluth area in 15 years.

Crews are working 16-hour days to restore power. In addition to Minnesota Power crews, the company called in additional resources from Ameren, Interen, MP Technologies and M.J. Electric. Minnesota Power expects many of its remaining customers without electricity to have power restored today. A few pockets, including areas around Pike Lake and Canosia, may not have power restored until Wednesday.

Some customers who have damage to their electric service meter and mast will need to contact an electrical contractor for repairs before Minnesota Power can restore power to the residence.

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.

Minnesota Power also reminds customers to make sure appliances and other electrical items that were on when the power went out are turned off to avoid possible damage when power is restored. Portable generators should be connected to appliances and not to home electric services to avoid potential injury to lineworkers, homeowners or the public.

For more outage updates and information go to the Outage Center at <http://www.mnpower.com/> or follow Minnesota Power on Twitter and Facebook. Customers who have questions about their mast or other outage-related questions can call Minnesota Power at 1-800-228-4966.

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

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and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

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