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# **NEWS**

## **Minnesota Power makes steady progress on power restoration as aid arrives**

Duluth, Minnesota—Reinforcements from Missouri will join Minnesota Power line crews this afternoon as the company continues to make progress in restoring power to customers following this week's severe storms in northern and central Minnesota.

By early Friday afternoon the company had restored power to 19,000 of the 46,000 affected at the height of the storm; 26,000 customers remain without power. Most customers in areas outside of hard-hit Duluth, including Cloquet, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Walker and Tower, were expected to have power restored by the end of the day.

In Duluth, Minnesota Power expects to make significant progress today despite the severe damage to power poles and lines caused by fallen trees, which makes power restoration more complicated. However, as crews are restoring service to residential customers they are discovering that the damage is more extensive than first thought. Restoring power to some pockets in rural Duluth and other severely damaged neighborhoods may be extended through the weekend.

Fifty lineworkers and 25 heavy trucks with specialty equipment rolled into Duluth today from Ameren in St. Louis, Mo., and will assist Minnesota Power in responding to the worst storm to affect the company's electrical system in the Duluth area in 15 years.

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, 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.

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 reminds everyone to please stay clear of 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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