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Minnesota Power responding to winter storm outages *All available crews are working on power restoration*

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power crews are responding safely and as quickly as possible to restore power during the current winter storm.

Heavy, wet snow and high winds brought down numerous trees and limbs on power lines across the company's service area, causing numerous outages affecting about 5,400 customers as of noon Wednesday.

All available crews are in the field working to restore power. High winds can hamper their response because it makes elevated work more dangerous, and deep snow or ice also can slow their travel to work locations.

The largest outages Wednesday morning were in the Sandstone and Duluth areas. Crews from the Iron Range area, where there were very few outages, were sent to the Sandstone area one of the hardest hit locations, to assist in the response.

The number and severity of outages could fluctuate throughout the winter storm as weather conditions change. With more snow in the forecast for Thursday and into Friday, additional power outages are possible.

The safety of our crews and customers is our top priority during this outage response. Crews are reporting many low-hanging wires because of the heavy snow. Do not attempt to touch or lift any wire. Do not get out of your vehicle on or near wires. All power lines, including downed power lines on the ground, should be considered energized and capable of causing injury or death.

Please give crews the space they need to work safely along roads and streets, and slow down when driving near them. Our customers' patience is appreciated as we recognize the inconvenience caused by the outages.

Stay informed

Minnesota Power customers can report outages and receive up-to-date power restoration information by downloading the Minnesota Power mobile app. To download the app for Apple iOS or Android, go to the Minnesota Power app webpage at <https://www.mnpower.com/MobileApp> and click on the App Store or Google Play button in the banner at the top of the page. You will then be linked to the webpage where the app can be installed on your device.

Our online Outage Center at www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter also includes outage maps and information on power restoration times. Following Minnesota Power on Twitter or Facebook is another way to get timely updates on power outages.

Stay safe

We encourage customers to be prepared for an outage. Here are some tips:

- Keep a “Lights Out” kit in an accessible place with at least one flashlight, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Use candles or camping lanterns with caution.
- If you have a fireplace, keep matches and firewood handy so you're prepared to build a fire to keep warm.
- Turn off televisions, stoves, microwave ovens, stereo equipment and other appliances except your refrigerator and freezer during an outage.
- Leave at least one light on so you'll know when power has been restored.
- Do not go near any low or downed wires as injury or death could occur. Always assume downed power lines are energized.

For more “Lights Out” tips, visit: www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter/WhatToDoIfLightsGoOut

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.