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Minnesota Power is responding to outages as high winds hit region *All available crews are working on power restoration*

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power crews are prepared and are responding as safely and as quickly as possible to restore power outages caused by high winds downing trees and limbs.

After last week's heavy, wet snow of two feet or more coated trees in the region, today's high winds are taking down many trees and limbs, causing scattered outages. The largest outages today were in the Duluth, Lakewood Township and Carlton areas and affected up to 1,200 customers at times. By 3:30 p.m., crews were working to restore service to the fewer than 600 customers remaining without power.

Gusts of up to 45 mph were recorded at the Duluth airport today, and the Grand Marais harbor recorded 64 mph gusts a number of times.

Minnesota Power has been preparing for this week's winter storm, ensuring appropriate staffing levels and proactively trimming and clearing trees that threaten power lines. All available crews are in the field working to restore power. The frigid temperatures, strong winds and travel conditions may hamper response times.

"Our crews have been responding quickly to today's outages. We appreciate their hard work and commitment in tough conditions which has kept us up with repairs to our system while also keeping our customers and their families warm as we head into the holidays," said Josh Goutermont, director of Grid Operations. "We prepared for this storm thanks to the early forecast, and the tree clearing we've accomplished over the past week has really paid off. While we still have about 24 hours of high winds in the forecast, we're in a good spot right now. We will continue to monitor the weather and will respond 24/7 to any additional outages."

The safety of our crews and customers is our top priority during this outage response. Steer clear of any downed power lines. 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.

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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.
- If using a generator during an outage, please follow important safety procedures. You can learn more at <https://www.mnpower.com/GeneratorSafety>.

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

For information on what to do during an outage in cold weather, visit: <https://www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter/WinterWeatherSafety>.

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.

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