

211,000 Customers of PPL Electric Utilities Without Power: More Outages Expected as Damage Assessment Continues

PRNewswire-FirstCall
ALLENTOWN, Pa.

An update on current power outages from Tropical Storm Isabel.

Situation: Outages began to increase across south central Pennsylvania around 7 p.m. Thursday (9/18). The first areas to feel the effects of Isabel were Lancaster and Harrisburg.

Customers Restored: 48,000 since 7 p.m. EDT Thursday (9/18)

Customers Without Power: 211,000 as of 4:30 a.m. EDT.

Affected Areas: Isabel has affected the entire 29-county service area of PPL Electric Utilities with downed lines and power outages. The hardest hit area is south central Pennsylvania in the Harrisburg and Lancaster areas. There are also a significant number of customers without power in Schuylkill County. 75,000 customers are without power in the Lancaster area; 61,000 customers are without power in the Harrisburg area; and about 15,000 customers are without power in Schuylkill County. For the latest local outage figures across the service area, check our Web site, www.pplnewsroom.com.

Number of Jobs Pending: About 1,200, with more outage calls expected around daybreak.

Cause of Outages: High winds, fallen trees and tree limbs from outside power line rights of way where tree pruning is done.

Est. Restoration Time: Too early to be determined at this time, but PPL Electric Utilities expects that it will take several days to restore service completely. Damage assessment is in the early stages.

Additional Information: Customers should call PPL Electric Utilities' toll free number, 1-800-342-5775 (1-800 DIAL PPL) to report power outages, downed wires and special needs. Phone lines may be busy, especially around daybreak as people wake up and find their home is without power. Customers should keep trying. The quickest way to report a power outage is through the company's automated phone system.

People should stay away from all downed wires -- do not touch or try to move them. Call PPL Electric Utilities or 911 immediately to report a downed wire.

PPL Electric Utilities has 1.3 million customers in 29 counties of eastern and central Pennsylvania.

PPL Electric Utilities uses a three-step process to manage major storms: preparation, assessment and restoration. Preparation began last Friday (9/12). Assessment of damage has begun and will not be fully known until Isabel moves through the area. Damage to power lines, poles and equipment appears to be significant. We will continue damage assessment to prioritize repairs and schedule work crews.

Most of the restoration work done to this point has been on emergency calls for life-threatening situations such as downed power lines and motor vehicle accidents, and restore service to critical public service facilities including hospitals, police and fire stations, 911 communications centers, prisons and water and sewer facilities.

NOTES TO EDITORS: During storm emergencies, reporters can view updated PPL Electric Utilities storm information by visiting our news Web site at www.pplnewsroom.com. The StormOutage feature provides system-wide and regional information.

SOURCE: PPL Corporation

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