

News Brief:

MG&E gets help repairing nor'easter damage from winds close to hurricane strength.



Electric crews from North Attleboro, Norwood and Wellesley are helping MG&E crews repair extensive damage after Monday's nor'easter blew in with wind gusts rivaling those recorded during the last hurricane that visited the area. A gust of 59 miles per hour was recorded early Monday morning. Throughout Sunday night and Monday, large, mature trees, in rain-soaked soil uprooted and older trees snapped at their base, toppling onto electric lines and poles bringing down large sections of distribution lines and equipment, leaving hundreds of customer in the dark.

The Department estimates that over 2,000 customers were without power at some point during the storm. MG&E requested help from several peer utilities whose systems were not as badly damaged. Crews will continue to repair wires and set poles throughout the day and night, until all customers are returned to power. Crews have repaired most damaged lines on main roadways and are now working on isolated locations and small side-streets with individual lines awaiting repair.

On Tuesday, by 3 pm, winds were again gusting to over 35 miles per hour and more sporadic outages may result throughout the Department's 100 square-mile service area.

Tuesday, April 17, 2007