

Mississippi Employees Pull Together to Restore Damage from Back-to-Back Storms

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Thunderstorms and high winds plagued central and northern Mississippi Tuesday evening, on the heels of violent tornado activity just a few short days ago. Statewide outages peaked at about 38,000, and as of 11 a.m. today, about 26,000 Entergy Mississippi, Inc. customers were without power.

Entergy Mississippi crews were able to safely begin assessing damage at daybreak. Current reports estimate that more than 150 poles, nearly 200 cross arms and several hundred spans of conductor need to be replaced, among many additional repairs. Fourteen transmission line sections in central and northern Mississippi are out of service due to the storm. Initial indications are that damage to the electrical system is extensive and will require a multi-day restoration effort.

“We’ve seen damage from Natchez all the way up to Southaven with this storm,” said Robbin Jeter, director of transmission and distribution operations for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. “Transmission lines in the Clinton and Bolton areas have been affected, and there are stretches of a mile or more in the Lexington and Kosciusko areas where the infrastructure will have to be completely replaced. Needless to say, the damage is substantial.”

While crews are working to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, significant outages remain in Attala, Hinds and Rankin counties.

Entergy is also working to locate additional resources to aid in the restoration effort. This search has been difficult due to widespread outages in surrounding states that were also affected by the storm.

“So far, I’ve been really pleased and impressed with the progress we’ve made in safely restoring power,” added Jeter. “We’ve had no accidents or incidents. And while we still have some transmission issues, we already have most of our substations back on, and should restore the last one by the end of the day.”