

Southern Indiana, Northern Kentucky battered by remnants of Hurricane Ike

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 17 September 2008 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 September 2008 10:22



? While many expected the forecasted increased winds that meteorologists had predicted for most of the prior week on Sunday, nobody anticipated the onslaught of hurricane strength winds for nearly five hours that battered the Ohio River Valley that morning and afternoon

As the remnants of what was once Hurricane Ike made its way north in the form of a tropical depression, a cold front moving southward out of Canada collided with it causing near hurricane strength winds to topple trees, shingles to blow off, roofs to be uplifted and non-secured items to simply blow away.

The result was that most of the Southern Indiana area was without power for most of the day Sunday, and many may not have it until at least the weekend as crews from Duke Energy and Clark, Harrison, and Jackson County REMC made their way from line to line to diagnose and reconnect households, section by section. Many households are operating on generators, which quickly sold out of local stores as residents made mad dashes to purchase them.



Another dilemma facing residents was that facing water companies. As power went out, so did the water utilities' ability to pump water to residents. Compounded with no power already

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and many residents were in dire straits.

Gas stations on Sunday evening and Monday were swamped as those few who still had power were bonbarded with customers, and in some cases found their tanks running low or empty as residents hurried to fill gas tanks and cans for running generators and saws to clean up debris on houses and out of roads.

Officials were saying the damage and resulting repairs were the worst they had seen in over 30 years. Residents in Louisville who are a part of LG&E, may not see power for up to two weeks as crews work around the clock to bring power back on to damaged areas. The damage throughout the area came in the form of uplifted shingles on houses, torn off roofs from both homes and barns, articles of furniture, and non-secured items being blown hundreds of feet from their original locations, and many, many downed trees and limbs.



Clark County REMC reported in a press release on Monday that at least 10,000 members were without service and that their damage assessment was still underway.

Jackson County REMC reported about 12,000 households without power on Monday. Duke Energy said via television stations that upwards of 144,000 households in their area were without power on Monday.

Clark REMC reported that many of those households might not have power restored for many days as several roads were blocked by debris and limbs, and were impassable.

Crews from the electric utilities began nearly immediately to work on downed lines, with many homes having power restored as early as Sunday night. Still more got power back on on Monday morning.

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