

Late afternoon storm knocks out power in southwestern communities

September 12, 2008

A wall of dust swept through the far southwestern Valley yesterday afternoon. It downed 48 69-kilovolt poles and left approximately 3,500 customers in the communities of Aztec, Buckeye, Bunyan, Cotton Center, Dateland, Hyder, Horne, Tonopah and Paloma without power.

As of earlier this morning the number of customers without electricity had been reduced to 1,600. Crews continue making repairs and power is expected to be restored to all customers by late this afternoon.

Earlier this morning, the Hauling Department delivered dry ice to locations in Buckeye and Gila Bend for distribution to affected customers. In addition to the dry ice, APS volunteers also provide "dry ice fact sheets" to ensure customers handle it safely.

Yesterday's storm also affected the Yuma and Somerton areas. As of this morning, there were approximately 10 customers still out of service in Somerton and about 16 customers in Yuma due to locations with wire and poles down. Dry ice also is being distributed at locations in both communities.