



Storm recovery in Coolidge continues

As reported in yesterday's *Newsline*, Wednesday night's storm blew through Coolidge and toppled 11 12-kilovolt power poles. The poles are owned by another electric distribution company serving the area and are shared with APS. This left about 2,300 Coolidge customers without power.

APS responded by providing crews to assist the distribution utility with repairs. Specifically, **Bill Marshall**, Area Manager, Mountain District, routed a crew from Kearney to help out. **Brent Dezeeuw**, Section Leader, Underground Construction, who had a crew finishing up in Ak Chin, routed it to the area. In addition, **Bob Pitts**, Section Leader, System Overhead Construction sent an eight-person crew to assist Pinal Construction crews on repairs to APS facilities.

As of this morning, crews continue to work on restoring power to our customers. In addition, two crews from Prescott and another System crew out of Phoenix arrived earlier this morning to assist, and a crew from Payson arrived around about 10 a.m. Currently, there are slightly more than 1,800 customers still without power. Full power restoration is expected by this afternoon.

Yesterday, APS employees helped distribute ice to our customers (pictured) and ice distribution resumed at 9 a.m. today. The Red Cross shelter located at Coolidge High School also remains open today for affected customers.

As power restoration efforts continued, praise for APS' work and support came in. Pinal County's Director of Emergency Management wrote:

"I personally would like to thank APS for the extraordinary efforts. We stayed way ahead of this one, which sure makes life much easier for everyone.

Leon (Stock, Section Leader, Pinal District O&M), Ernie (Mason, Distribution Operations Specialist, SE Operations) and Don (Harper-Smith, Distribution Operations Specialist, SE Operations) have been very timely and accurate with their information, along with Judee (Jackson, Community Development Consultant, Community Relations-SE Division). Not to mention those hard working guys out in the field!

Again, a big heartfelt thanks to all."

We agree.

(Cover photo courtesy of Kristi Freader, Coolidge Examiner, used with permission)