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Ice causes power outages

Staff Writer Cydney Baron The Times

PRYOR, OK — As ice moved into northeast Oklahoma causing power outages, electrical crews moved quickly, restoring power to homes all across the region.

“At the height of the outage we had a couple thousand houses in the town without power,” said Craig Shelton, MUB power foreman.

As of Monday evening Shelton said there were only 10 to 20 houses without power.

“Those homes are waiting on the electrician to come and outfit them,” said Shelton. “The service calls have slowed way down.”

“MUB crews worked diligently all week to restore power to as much of the community as they could,” said Mike Dunham, Deputy Directory of Mayes County Emergency Management.

“I appreciate everyone’s patience,” said Shelton. “It’s our crews, they did a great job. They have really done an exceptional job. The tree trimming crew is exceptionally outstanding.”

Shelton said the crews were set out to work at 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning and worked until after midnight only to return to work before 8 a.m. Sunday.

“We’ve about gotten it taken care of, hopefully we’ll be done with it then,” said Shelton.

“As of 9 a.m., PSO had one customer still without power in their service area but anticipated getting the home reconnected by 6 p.m. if not sooner,” said Dunham.

As of 2 p.m. Monday, Northeast Oklahoma Rural Electric Cooperative reported 34 outages remaining that affected 409 members, according to their Facebook page. The county breakdown, they reported, is “Craig 54, Delaware 2, Mayes 109, Ottawa 13 and Rogers 231.”

PSO says the storm caused a total of 62,500 customer outages from Friday through Monday. Some customers experienced multiple outages.

The Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company reported more than 18,000 Oklahoma residents were without power over the weekend.