Storm Team - Electrical Restoration

After a storm has passed, many of us sought information regarding the progress of the electrical restoration effort. It is virtually impossible for any power company to provide any specific information after such a large-scale event. That is where we come in. We provide information ranging from the damage and location, to the progress being made, in real time. We also answer specific questions and give estimates in the restoration process. This process was started last year by our neighbors in Algiers asking questions on the Nextdoor app after Hurricane Ida, so I will continue with using the Nextdoor app to answer questions and requests.

To aid in the understanding of the “general updates”, it is valuable that people know which main circuit they are on. The main circuits are called “Feeders”. They are the main feed from the substations to various neighborhoods. For instance, most of Walnut bend is on 722 out of Holiday Substation. Most of Tall Timbers is on 1714 out of Lower Coast Substation. Bocage is on 1713 along with Aurora and Aurora Heights. Most of Huntlee Village and Aurora West, including the two neighborhoods consisting of Admiralty Court and Seaward Court are on 1726 out of Lower Coast Substation. By knowing your specific feeder number, it is easier to follow the progress and ask questions. I have a list of who is on which electrical feeders which I should have available soon.

There are also a few things that we, in each neighborhood can do to make the electrical restoration process more efficient. In neighborhoods that are serviced from electrical lines in the rear of properties, we can install “Storm Information Boxes”. These boxes would be placed on specific poles (which I have picked out) for the people living in the neighborhood to drop information on specific damage in that neighborhood. A simple note with the address and type of damage is placed in the box for the crew that is working in that neighborhood.

How does this work? After a storm the power company receives hundreds of thousands of calls each day. The sheer number of calls continuously coming in, makes it impossible for any power company to direct that information to the correct responding crew, in real time. In the case of rear easement (electric lines in the rear), it is harder for the scouts or crews to see the damage and therefore some damage gets overlooked. Tall houses, trees and locked gates all contribute to things such as branches being left on the line which will cause a second outage. This plan simply cuts out the middle man and gets the information directly to the crew. For neighborhoods that feed from the rear and want to know where to place storm boxes, contact me thru the Nextdoor app. Eric G. and I will assist you. A realtor type box seems to be a good choice and I think you can get them for under $20.00.

If you have electrical lines feeding from the rear. you can also make the electrical restoration process safer and more efficient by leaving you gates unlocked for the crews to access the lines and keep your dog inside. It really saves time and damage.

Leaving your front porch light switch in the on position is also a big help in the electrical restoration process. In general, the lines are energized in the evening and throughout the night while the restoration crews are off of the line. When large areas are energized, some streets may not come back on. After energizing the main line, they can easily spot a dark neighborhood where the power remained out from the ones with all the porch lights on.

All of this started on the “ Nextdoor” app. after Hurricane Ida in 2021. I will continue to use the Nextdoor app. for this process. The “ group” will probably monitor and send information out on other platforms also.

Just like last year, I will assist the people in this area and answer your questions to the best of my ability. As time goes on, maybe we will be able to assist even more people.