July 5 Blowdown Update

Storm Information

Straight line winds registering 60-70 MPH referred to as a "Bow Echo" entered Southwest Itasca County at approximately 5:30 PM, July 5,2016
Wide spread power outages occurred in the City of Deer River and intermittently throughout Itasca County.
The community of Ball Club suffered storm damage and local residents responding had mostly completed cleanup activities by night fall July 6th
A public meeting was held at the Deer River High School Wednesday evening, July 6th
Salvation Army and the Red Cross provided food and water at the Deer River High School

Power Restoration

Minnesota Power and Light service was restored to their clients by 10 PM, July 6,2016
Lake Country Power is hopeful that power to their customers will be restored by late July 7, 2016. Progress is slow due to scattered and remote services.
Customers of all power companies are reminded that damage to power supply inside of residences and structures is the responsibility of the homeowner and local electricians need to be contacted. Final power connection cannot be completed by power companies until power repairs from the mast to the structure are completed.

Resources Assigned

Type 3 MNICS Incident Management Team is assigned to assist the Itasca County Sheriff, City of Deer River and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.
20 person MNICS Interagency saw crew
Itasca Fire Wise project crew
Sentenced to serve crew

Cooperating Agencies

Itasca Sheriff
Minnesota DNR
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Red Cross
Salvation Army
City of Deer River
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Minnesota Power And Light
Lake Country Power
Itasca FireWise

Today's Plan

McCavity/Crooked Lake –A five person Chain saw crew will be assigned to the area
City of Deer River – Three 5 person Chain saw crews assigned to city wide clean up

Saw crews will be tasked with storm damaged Vegetation removal within 120 feet around structures and within 20 feet of structure access drives

Deer River city residents and travelers are being asked to limit traffic on city streets to facilitate storm debris clean up.

Red Cross will terminate their support of the incident at noon today and the Deer River school will be closing relative to the incident at 8 PM this evening

Recovery Assistance Available

Itasca FireWise Will pick up storm damaged vegetation that is piled near access points and that originated within 120 feet of structures and 20 feet of access driveways, in communities designated as a FireWise community.

Itasca County Landfill is accepting storm damaged vegetation free of charge from Itasca County residents.

Residents of Deer River are encouraged to call city hall for a list of certified tree removal specialists.

Plans for Friday

Continued chainsaw work and debris removal

Points of Contact

Ron Sanow , Incident Management Team PIO, 218-839-1504
Marlyn Halvorson, Itasca County Emergency Manager, 218-910-0546
Mark Box, Deer River City Administrator, 218-244-9509