



Press Release:

March 20, 2025

TO: All media
From: Joe Rueschenberg
712-755-5182

The Harlan Municipal Utilities (HMU) has issued the following statement regarding the power outage on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

A severe winter storm moved into the area on the morning of Wednesday, March 19. At approximately 1:35 pm the storm caused 2 fuses to blow from powerlines touching due to the high winds. This occurred at the intersection of Highway 59 and Highway 44, which only affected 2 HMU customers at that time.

At 2:05 pm all HMU customers lost power. After an investigation of our electric infrastructure, it was determined that we lost transmission power to our J-11 substation. Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) contacted us to notify us that a breaker in the J-11 substation would not reset. Our crews found that all 3 transmission feeds coming to Harlan were without power. NIPCO's control center discovered that a beaker malfunctioned and NIPCO advised our crews to engage the manual bypass.

NIPCO worked diligently to route power to our J-11 substation. Once power to the substation was restored, HMU linecrews worked to restore power within our distribution system.

Power to most HMU customers was restored by 5:00 PM. Power to all HMU customers was restored by 6:13 PM.

HMU and our customers would like to thank NIPCO and the employees at their control center for their coordination and quick response in this situation.

During the outage, KNOD was not able to broadcast. The only communications we had with customers was Facebook and Alert Iowa. We highly encourage citizens to sign up for the Alert Iowa notifications for time sensitive information that affects the area you live. You can request to receive notification via phone call, text, email or all of the above. You will only get notifications that affect you according to the address you register with. So just because your neighbor gets a notification doesn't mean that you will. The Alert Iowa system sends out reminders every 6 months to update your information. Sign up at <https://smart911.com>.

HMU also posts on our Facebook page as a convenience for those that use social media but the Alert Iowa system should be your first resource in an emergency situation such as this one for updates.

As always if you have an urgent service issue please call 712-755-5182 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.