



OPPD crews help restore power in hurricane aftermaths

When recent hurricanes caused major outages along the East Coast, an OPPD mutual aid team was there to help.

OPPD's 16-person team helped restore power to customers in West Virginia and Virginia after Hurricane Helene, then transitioned to Orlando, Florida in the wake of Hurricane Milton.

The team consists of four three-person line crews, a member of OPPD's safety team and two transportation mechanics,

headed by a crew supervisor.

Hurricane Helene caused widespread damage across the south-east after making landfall in Florida and left nearly 4 million electric customers in the dark.

The team prioritized safety and focused on making fast, efficient repairs in difficult, mountainous terrain.

Mutual aid help from outside utilities helps restore power much faster and more efficiently after major storms. OPPD provides mutual aid

assistance and benefits from it as well, as was the case during after the July 31 storm that caused the biggest outage in the utility's history.

Several other Nebraska and Midwestern utilities traveled to the southeast as well to assist with restoration work.

Serving on a mutual aid team requires sacrifice and time away from families, but team members say it's worth it to help communities.



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DECEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 17 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

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Helping trees survive storm damage

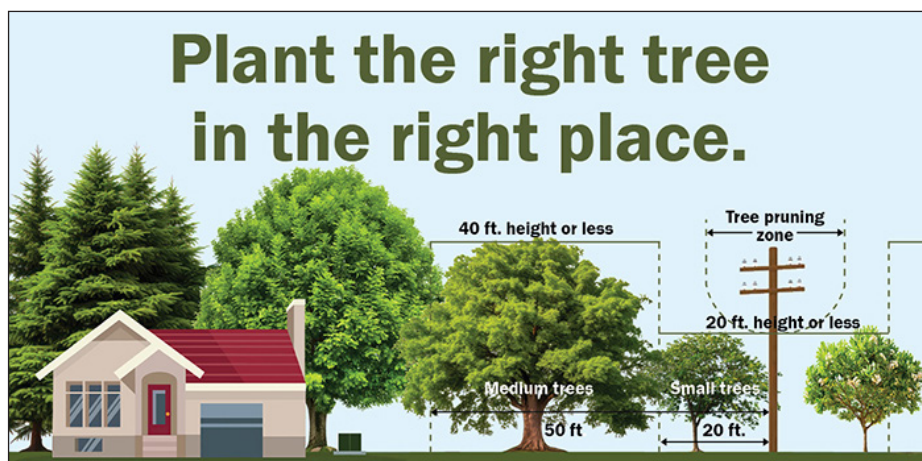
OPPD customers saw severe and widespread tree damage this year when major storms rolled through Nebraska.

Limbs fell onto homes, cars, fences and power equipment, resulting in outages in many parts of OPPD's service territory.

That's why proper tree placement and maintenance is so important. Trees that are damaged or weakened by disease or infestations are more likely to break. Overgrown trees and trees planted too close to electrical infrastructure can pose hazards as well.

Trees provide numerous benefits and can live a very long time in the right conditions. Here are some tips to reduce risks and maximize the benefits:

Right tree, right place: Trees thrive best in a good environment, clear of power lines and other structures. One common mistake is not matching the available space with the proper tree. Before you plant, know how the tree will look at full maturity and find out the space its roots will require.



Consider factors such as the tree's height, canopy, spread, growth rate, soil, sun and moisture, and whether it is deciduous or evergreen.

Good clearance: Small trees (10-20 feet tall) can be planted adjacent to lines. Medium trees (25-40 feet tall) should be planted no closer than 30 feet horizontally to lines. Large trees (50-80 feet tall) should be planted no closer than 50 feet horizontally to lines.

A good species: Some tree species

do particularly well in the area that includes OPPD's service territory. Some examples are dogwood and magnolia (small trees), maple and redbud (medium) and birch, catalpa, ginkgo and oak (large).

Diversity: A diversity of trees helps as well, to minimize the impact of infestations that affect specific species, such as the emerald ash borer.

Trim and prune: Don't forget to trim and prune regularly to prevent overgrowth.

New agreement provides OPPD with 300 megawatts of wind energy



OPPD has added 300 megawatts of new wind energy to its portfolio to help meet rising customer demand for electricity.

We recently signed a power-purchase agreement with EDF Renewables, the developer and owner of the Milligan 1 Wind Project in Saline County.

Milligan 1 will help OPPD expand and diversify its generation for customers and move us toward our goal to become a net-zero carbon producer by 2050. The

electricity generated is enough to power 115,000 homes.

Milligan 1 has been operating for three years in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) marketplace. SPP is the regional transmission organization for OPPD and other utilities and organizations across 14 states.

OPPD anticipates the energy needs in its 13-county service territory will grow at a rate of over 100 MW annually for the foreseeable future. That's the equivalent of adding 65 new metro-area high schools or midsize hospitals in just one year. Just a few years ago, adding a modest 4 MW per year would have met customers' needs.

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