



ST. CLAIRSVILLE HIT BY HEAVY STORMS; HIGH WINDS KILL MAN IN EDGERTON

By Bill Evenson—publications editor

A severe storm Wednesday packing damaging winds sent more than 3,000 St. Clairsville electric customers into the dark and killed a construction worker in Edgerton.

According to St. Clairsville Mayor Robert Vincenzo, at one point the entire town was without power. Electricity was restored to the town by late Thursday.

Mutual Aid crews from AMP member communities Piqua, Orrville, Westerville, Tipp City, New Martinsville, Cuyahoga Falls, Dover, Woodsfield, and Wadsworth along with two AMP forestry crews worked to restore power and began the cleanup process, said Gene Post, AMP mutual aid chairman.

"I want to give the Mutual Aid program a glowing endorsement. Gene (Post) did a great job coordinating the relief efforts and his crews worked through the night to help us," said Vincenzo.

"The entire town was down and we were only operating with generators," said the mayor. "There are trees down everywhere - on houses and uprooted. There are windows damaged in buildings. We even have trees that were split in half," he noted.

Vincenzo also explained that three West Virginia radio station towers, all 350 feet tall, were knocked down at the same time by straight-lined winds that hit the outskirts of town.

In Edgerton, nearly 50 mph winds blew over a 10-foot concrete wall killing a construction worker at the site of an expansion to the local high school. This was the second major storm to hit the community in recent months. In June, a storm severely damaged Edgerton's town hall.

City crews in Westerville returned power to about 2,200 customers by late Wednesday after strong winds knocked down trees and limbs onto power lines. Steve Garnick, Westerville operations manager, said power was restored to all customers by 7:30 p.m. Wednesday with the majority of those outages back in service by 5 p.m.

"We had several circuits out as a result of downed trees and limbs. Most of the damage was located in the center of the city. We didn't receive any reports of any serious damage," he explained.



A St. Clairsville Light and Power lineworker works to clear downed trees within the city limits after the community was hit by high winds and rain Wednesday.

—photo by Tom Murphy, City of St. Clairsville