



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY STORM UPDATE – 9:00 PM

JOPLIN, MO – September 7, 2012 – The Empire District Electric Company reports that as the result of the storms that moved through the area late this afternoon approximately 29,000 customers lost power. Outages were due to high winds that knocked down poles and sent trees and debris into power lines. Although many communities served by Empire were damaged by the storms, hardest hit were the communities of Commerce, Quapaw, and Fairland, Oklahoma, and Granby, Diamond, Seneca, and Bolivar, Missouri.

Crews immediately began work to assess damage and begin repairs. At 9:00 p.m., about 14,000 customers remained without service. Crews will continue work throughout the night to restore power.

Empire again reminds customers to use caution.

- ✓ Stay away from power lines. They are bare wires and not insulated. Downed power lines may appear to be harmless, but could be energized and dangerous.
- ✓ If a person or object is in contact with a power line, don't touch the person, object, or line. The electric current could flow through you. Call 911 and Empire District Electric Company immediately.
- ✓ If your vehicle is in contact with a power line, stay inside the car. Warn others not to touch the car or the power line.
- ✓ If you must leave your vehicle, jump clear to avoid being in contact with the car and the ground at the same time.

(more)

If you will be utilizing a generator:

- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper usage of a portable generator.
- ✓ Operate the generator outdoors to avoid deadly fumes accumulating in the house.
- ✓ When using a portable generator, plug appliances directly into the generator.
- ✓ Never connect a portable generator to your home's main electrical panel; it can back feed into electric lines and endanger line workers and others.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electric, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 215,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

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