



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC POWER CREWS FROM WISCONSIN RETURN HOME AFTER SUCCESSFULLY RESTORING ELECTRIC SERVICE FOLLOWING HURRICANE MILTON**

Utility workers from Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities – including a crew from Stoughton Utilities - returned home October 18 after successfully helping a Florida utility to restore power following the devastation left behind by Hurricane Milton. The crews worked in Lakeland, Florida, which is about 35 miles east of Tampa, an area hard hit by the storm.

Forty-seven workers from 22 communities that own and operate their own electric utility had been in Lakeland since Oct. 11, after responding to a call for mutual aid. The Wisconsin crews originally departed for Kissimmee, Fla., but were redirected to Lakeland, which had more severe damage from the hurricane. The Wisconsin workers are members of the Municipal Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), which helped to coordinate the mutual aid with its counterpart in Florida.

Stoughton Utilities sent three lineworkers and equipment to support the effort. Andrew Ruder, Michael Nawrocki, and Chad Mason answered the call for help. Together, the three have over 24 years of experience as lineworkers.

The Wisconsin line workers teamed with municipal electric utility crews from eight other states and Lakeland Electric employees to safely restore power to approximately 86,000 customers. Without mutual aid from the Wisconsin crews as well as other municipal utilities, many of Lakeland Electric customers could have been without power for weeks.

The crews remaining in Wisconsin at Stoughton Utilities also deserve thanks for working double duty to keep the lights on for our customers so we could send help to Florida.

The Wisconsin workers departed with a fleet of bucket trucks, digger derricks, and other equipment, at the same time Hurricane Milton was making landfall. Original estimates showed the crews might be needed for more than two weeks, but they were able to finish the work in about a week.

Municipal utilities that participated in Milton-related mutual aid were from Arcadia, Black Earth, Cedarburg, Clintonville, Columbus, Evansville, Fennimore, Hartford, Kaukauna, Lodi, Manitowoc, Marshfield, Mazomanie, Medford, Muscoda, Oconomowoc, Prairie du Sac, Rice Lake, Shawano, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, and Wisconsin Rapids.



*Photo: (from left) Andrew Ruder, Michael Nawrocki, and Chad Mason answered the call for help and went to Lakeland, Florida to help with electric restoration efforts following Hurricane Milton.*

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.

### **About mutual aid**

Mutual aid is electric utilities helping each other in times of need. Utilities that want to give and get help for power restoration after a disaster are part of a network of community-owned electric companies. When (and even before) a major disaster hits a utility's territory and the utility knows that its own crews and equipment won't be enough to restore power quickly, it calls for mutual aid. Other utilities in the network respond with what they can offer.

### **About MEUW**

Formed in 1928, Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin is the state association providing safety services, leadership and management training, advocacy, and member support to the 81 municipal electric utilities across Wisconsin. Collectively, these public power utilities serve nearly 300,000 electric customers and distribute more than 11 percent of the electricity in Wisconsin. Municipal utilities, most with century-old roots serving their communities, operate on a not-for-profit basis overseen by a local governing board composed of local citizens and elected officials. To learn more, visit [meuw.org](http://meuw.org).