

Gulf eNews

A Service of Gulf Power Company's Public Affairs Department

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After 3 days, 80% restored

The number of Gulf Power customers who have electricity continues to grow, with more than 194,000 restored just three days after Hurricane Dennis made landfall.

As of Thursday morning, most of the remaining 48,000 customers without power are in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties: 20,503 in Escambia County (20%) and 24,786 in Santa Rosa County (47%). Gulf Power crews in Okaloosa County are close to completing major restoration work – except for Holiday Isle: 2,414 customers remain without power this morning.

“Our crews have been working hard to wrap up large-scale restoration in lots of areas just three days after Dennis hit,” said John Hutchinson, Gulf Power spokesman. “The focus of our work now can be on those extremely hard hit areas in Santa Rosa County and the north end of Escambia County. We still have hot, hard work ahead of us along the path of Dennis.”

In Santa Rosa County, about 90 percent of Gulf Power customers lost power after Dennis made landfall there. In Escambia County, about 74 percent were out on Sunday. Gulf Power crews began restoration right away and by Wednesday, more 4,000 outside crews were on the streets with them.

“Gulf Power crews are nationally recognized for their restoration work, and they’ve had to prove that too many times this past year,” Hutchinson said. “But they continue to do great work and have a great sense of responsibility to our customers. As more and more lights come on, it gets frustrating for those who are still in the dark, but we want our customers to know we’re still out there every day working hard to get life back to normal for everyone.”

Total outages by county:

	Restored	Remaining
Escambia	79,604.....	20,503
Santa Rosa	28,221.....	24,786
Okaloosa.....	64,657.....	2,414

Gulf Power remains on target to restore power by early next week to 95 percent of the customers who are able to take power.

Customers who are still without electricity in the following counties should call 1-800-GUPOWER for the quickest response:

- The following areas in Okaloosa County: Fort Walton Beach, Shalimar, Mary Esther, Destin (except for Holiday Isle), Niceville, Valparaiso, Laurel Hill, Crestview, Baker and Milligan
- All of Walton, Bay, Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties

STORM TIPS FOR CUSTOMERS (www.gulfpower.com)

- ***Do not connect portable generators to your household electrical wiring.***
This can cause serious injury to you and to Gulf Power employees working on the lines in your neighborhood. Connect only essential appliances – such as freezers and refrigerators – directly to the generator.
- Stay away from all downed lines. Warn others to do the same and contact Gulf Power or a local law enforcement agency.
- Please make only one call to report your power outage.
- Keep freezer doors closed and sealed. Well-filled freezers keep most foods frozen two to three days if the door is kept closed.
- ***If your power is off, turn off large appliances and air conditioners and wait 10 to 15 minutes after power has been restored before turning them back on.***
- If there is damage to your meter box or the pole on top of your meter box, you must first have an electrician make repairs before Gulf Power can restore your service.
- If there is flooding in your home or business, Gulf Power may be unable to restore electric service until the building is inspected by city or county code officials.