



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Lighting Storm Causes Hingham Outages

July 24, 2008

The long duration, intense lightning storm that past through the South Shore Wednesday night, July 23rd caused power outages in Hingham that kept the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant crews busy for several hours. The storm produced heavy rains and a reported 150 lightning strikes in the Town during the duration of the storm. The large and longest outage of the evening was:

- Around 5:30 PM, a lightning strike caused a piece of electrical equipment to operate, shutting down the power from Central Street, through Downtown Hingham, out to Rte. 3 A, Summer Street and George Washington Blvd. The outage affected approximately 750 customers. The crews patrolled all the streets in the area for damage and were not able to find any physical damage to the electric system. Each time the power was attempted to be restored, it would shut down again. The crews removed several tree branches and inspected the equipment again and ultimately determined that a device (called a recloser) on Central Street has failed. The device was removed from service and the power restored around 8:20 PM.

The were several other storm related trouble calls to individual and small groups of customers that the Light Plant crews responded to and restored their power.

“The lack of physical damage we were looking for made the troubleshooting of the larger outage more difficult,” said John G. Tzimirangas, General Manager of Hingham Municipal Light. “This meant the crews would have to patrol every street in order to look for problems which extended the duration of the outage. The device that presumably failed is being tested to see if we need to repair or replace the unit, We understand the inconvenience to our customers when their power is off, but that was quite a bit of lightning over a long period of time”, Tzimirangas commented.

HMLP serves 10,700 residential and commercial electric customers in the Town of Hingham.