

## HURRICANE FLOYD: THE AFTERMATH

# Crews on the job; some power may not be back until Tuesday

By **MIKE RAMSEY**

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Despite legions of helpers from power companies in several states, it may take until Tuesday to restore power to many homes and businesses in the southeast corner of North Carolina.

Rising floodwaters in the interior counties has cut off help from the outside. It took until 11 a.m. Friday for many trucks to get to New Hanover County, where 53,000 homes and business were without power at 8 p.m.

"We are fighting it by air, land and water," said Don Cook, a Carolina Power & Light's company spokesman. "The flooding has given us a fit."

Three of CP&L's substations, Wallace, Whiteville and

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CP&L spokesman Don Cook

Grifton, are under water, significantly hampering restoration efforts, according to a company statement.

The storm damaged 2,250 utility poles and knocked down 465 miles of power lines in CP&L's eastern region of North Carolina, the company reported.

Some residents' ire has been raised by the stalled efforts.

Richard Spivey of Edgewater Club Road was angered by the promises of "thousands" of CP&L workers in the area to help restore power.

"I'm just upset because they keep on telling me they have all these people here," he said, "and I have been driving all over this city and I haven't seen a single (CP&L) truck."

Mr. Cook said National Guardsmen have been posted at the utility's office to protect CP&L property from angry customers who have come there to complain about the power failures.

In fact, a regiment of orange Asplundh tree removal trucks and power company rigs sat in rows on the New Hanover County Fairgrounds, pulling out in long streams around 11:30 a.m. Friday.

CP&L reported 3,300 extra workers were in its east region Friday, with 1,700 more on the way today.

Company officials expect to have 80 percent of their customers on electricity by the end of the day Saturday; 90 percent by the end of Sunday; 95 percent by Monday; and everyone by Tuesday.

Four County Electric Membership Corp. made progress Friday. By 5 p.m., the company had restored power to 13,000 of its 28,000 customers in Pender, Onslow, Sampson, Columbus, Duplin and Bladen counties.

Brunswick County Electric Membership Corp. had restored power to all but 10,000 of its 55,000 customers. About 10,000 customers are without power in the Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corp., which has 25,000 customers.