

## **High winds Sunday night knock out power to Ajo, Gila Bend**

*Yucca outage results in Yuma customers losing power too*

July 20, 2009

Sunday evening's monsoon storm hit Southwest Arizona with strong, damaging winds, downing approximately 60 poles around the Gila Bend area.

The poles are on the on the Gila Bend – Gillespie, Gila Bend – Paloma and Gila Bend – Why 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Panda – Gila Bend 230-KV line also has nine structures with damage.

As a result, approximately 2,300 residents of Ajo and Gila Bend currently are without power.

APS crews worked through the night to restore power to our customers and the efforts continue today.

At 7 a.m., APS personnel, in coordination with the Ajo Improvement District, the Gila Bend Fire Chief and the Gila Bend Town Manager, began dry ice distribution at the Shell gas stations in Gila Bend and Ajo.

APS representatives have been in contact with Maricopa County Emergency Management (MCEM). MCEM is handling the water issues for the areas.

Meanwhile around 5:30 p.m. Sunday, in an unrelated event, two Yucca Power Plant transformers tripped. In order to maintain the integrity of the system, the company had to shed 50 megawatts of load. This left approximately 14,000 Yuma customers without power. All customers were back in service by 9:30 p.m.

Sunday's outage in Yuma followed storm-related outages that occurred in the area on Saturday. Saturday's storm hit shortly before 4:30 p.m. and left 5,200 customers without power. All customers were back in service by 2 a.m. Sunday.