

High Country Starts To Dig Out: Power Outages

Written by Kenneth Reece

Saturday, 19 December 2009 03:42

Many High Country residents found themselves in the dark Friday night into Saturday morning.

Residents of the Globe Community of Caldwell County were the hardest hit with 480 customers without power. Because of the isolated terrain and broken power poles, some of which had to be replaced by hand, crews had to replace power a section at a time. It took about 13 hours to get the last of those without power back online.

In Watauga County the hardest hit area was the Bethel Community. According to Renee Whitener of Blue Ridge Electric, 339 customers were without power, with the last portion of power restored just before midnight Friday night.

With all power restored Blue Ridge Electric have sent crews to help other electric crews to the southwest of the High Country. More than 44,000 in Buncombe County were in the dark just after midnight. More than 12,000 customers in Haywood County were without power. Almost 2,200 customers lost power in Mitchell, Henderson, Madison and Yancey counties. According to the Duke Energy Web site, 4,457 customers in Jackson County did not have power as of 12:45 a.m.; 2,480 in Graham County; 1,845 in Macon County; 2,169 in McDowell County; 3,913 in Rutherford; 4,502 in Swain; and 415 in Transylvania County.