

Tropical Storm-Force Winds Drive Rain Across Area

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Tuesday, 05 April 2011 04:55

The Line of storms--looking like a tropical storm--hit the High Country at about midnight last night, and with it, the trouble started. Winds knocked a tree across NC 194 at Laurel Knob Road, but the DOT and Ashe firefighters have cleared the mess there. BREMCO crews restored power to 2100 customers in western Watauga. As the storm roared through last night, trees crashed—sometimes across power lines and/or across roads. A number of the calls were in Ashe County as the line of storms hit. Highway 88 west was blocked at about midnight with trees blown across both lanes and some power issues were reported. But by this morning, Ashe and Avery are clear of such issues, while Watauga still has a small power outage, same for Wilkes, and more BREMCO customers out in Caldwell. The storms have moved into the Piedmont, and there are traffic issues blocking major highways around Charlotte—some 59 roads blocked by debris there.