



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Downtown Hingham affected by Power Outages

September 9, 2008

The Downtown Hingham area has been affected by three separate and distinct power interruptions in the past 4 months. The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant has reviewed these events in an effort to understand if there any common causes to these problems. The events that occurred in the area are described below:

- June 9th around 6:00 PM during the third day of extreme heat and record setting energy use, a fuse on pole near 383 Main Street overheated and caused the crossarm and pole top to catch on fire and caused the interruption of electric service to all customers along Main, Central, South, North, Water, Rockland and Summer Street for approximately an hour.
- July 23rd around 5:30 PM, a lighting 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.
- September 9th around 4:00 PM, a large tree limb fell during a rain, wind and thunderstorm and made contact with electric wires at the corner of Water and Main Street, interrupting electric service to the Central, Main, South, North, Summer and Rockland Streets. The Hingham Light crews responded and removed the tree limb and restored service to all customers just before 5:00 PM.

The Light Plant has reviewed all the causes of these most recent issues and has determined that it will be moving up a project to replace some infrastructure in that Elm, Central, Main, Leavitt and Water Street areas to its 2009 work plan. This work was originally scheduled for the 2010/2011 timeframe of its Capital Plan. The completed project will make the newly installed infrastructure more resistant to tree damage and tree contact in a very heavily treed area of Hingham. The Light Plant will also continue to look at this large area of Town for other opportunities to improve the service to its customers.

The reclosing device damaged in July, on Central Street, has been repaired and worked properly on September 9th, disrupting the electric service in the area when the tree limb made contact with the electrical wires.

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