

## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WISCONSIN PUBLIC POWER CREWS HEADED TO FLORIDA TO SPEED RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE IAN**

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. — As Florida utilities prepare for anticipated damage when Hurricane Ian makes landfall this week, dozens of lineworkers from municipally-owned utilities across Wisconsin are answering the call.

Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) has asked Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) to organize electric system “mutual aid” crews to head for Kissimmee, Florida, to work side-by-side with Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA) employees and other mutual aid crews. Workers from 22 Wisconsin communities will help with recovery work that is expected to be needed in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

As of 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, Wisconsin municipal utilities are planning to send at least 41 electric lineworkers, along with a fleet of bucket trucks, digger derricks, and other equipment. MEUW is sending one of its staff members to monitor worker safety and help coordinate efforts on the ground in Florida.

The Wisconsin crews are scheduled to depart on Thursday morning and will use Chattanooga, Tenn., as an initial staging area. Workers are expected to be in Florida for 10 days to two weeks.

Municipal utilities participating in the initial wave of Ian-related mutual aid come from Arcadia, Black Earth, Cedarburg, Elkhorn, Fennimore, Hartford, Kaukauna, Marshfield, Mazomanie, Muscoda, New Lisbon, Manitowoc, Oconomowoc, Oconto Falls, Plymouth, Rice Lake, Richland Center, Shawano, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, and Wisconsin Rapids.

MEUW member utilities traveled to support KUA after Hurricane Irma ravaged east-central Florida five years ago. KUA is the sixth-largest utility in Florida, which is home to 33 community-owned utilities (compared to 81 in Wisconsin).

**About mutual aid**

*Mutual aid is electric utilities helping each other in times of need. Utilities that want to give and get help for power restoration after a disaster are part of a network of community-owned electric companies. When (and even before) a major disaster hits a utility's territory and the utility knows that its own crews and equipment won't be enough to restore power quickly, it calls for mutual aid. Other utilities in the network respond with what they can offer.*

**About MEUW**

*Formed in 1928, Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin is the state association providing safety services, leadership and management training, advocacy, and member support to the 81 municipal electric utilities across Wisconsin. Collectively, these public power utilities serve nearly 300,000 electric customers and distribute more than 11 percent of the electricity in Wisconsin. Municipal utilities, most with century-old roots serving their communities, operate on a not-for-profit basis overseen by a local governing board composed of local citizens and elected officials. To learn more, visit [meuw.org](http://meuw.org).*