Case Study

Hurricane Ian Emergency Response

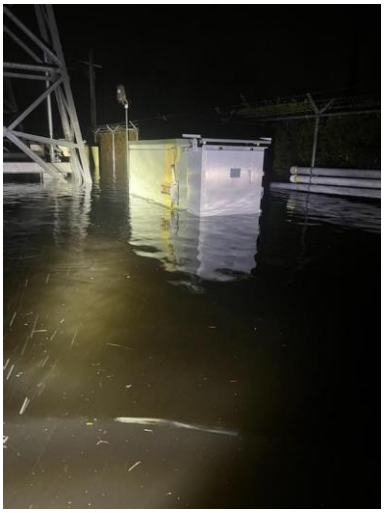
Disaster Restoration Assistance for Substation in Florida

On September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Western Florida as a category 4 storm. As Ian ripped through the Panhandle State, this historic hurricane proved castastrophic as it forced thousands to evacute their homes and left over two million Floridians without power. In the wake of the destruction, EPS was on the ground to assist a long-standing client with disaster recovery and restore power to customers in record time, which required some fast thinking and resourceful ingenuity.

Background

Hurricane Ian devasted the State of Florida in late September 2022. The catastrophic storm caused severe flooding and knocked out power throughout the lower half of the state, leaving millions without electricity and wondering when it would ever be restored.

Not long after it was deemed safe for disaster recovery crews to enter the area, EPS received a call from an existing utility client requesting assistance at their submerged substation. Restoring service to this utility grid with equal parts urgency and safety was at the forefront of all involved.



On October 2, 2022, EPS technicians arrived at the customer site ready to assist the client in the assessment of the floodwater damage. During this time, the techs discovered the substation was flood waist deep, with waters continuing to rise in the area.

The Challenge and Findings

Facing waist deep waters, which continued to rise as the men strategized gaining access to the submerged substation, required swift thinking and an out of the box approach. Armed with the pre-exisiting knowledge of the clients' system, the pair of EPS technicians' quick wit and resourcefulness kicked in. With floodlights and a kayak, the team headed into the effected area without hesitation.

Upon entering the client site, it was clear to the EPS technicians that the flood waters had significantly impacted the clients' equipment. Not only had the waters seeped in to wreck their havoc, but the area was also ridden with massive amounts of debris, which the team was able to identify through photos as they made their way through the substation. Within hours, the team was able to make their way back from the destination and report with their firsthand findings.

Conclusion

In the 72 hours after EPS' technicians deploying into the hurricane impacted substation, the client was able to better assess the damage to their equipment. This gave the client the ability to better strategize in record time and re-energize their substation, restoring power to their customers. Had the EPS technicians not been resourceful in utilizing the kayak to embark into the client substation site, the client may have had to wait far longer to create an appropriate course of action to discover the state of their equipment and repair it, therefore delaying the process of restoring power to their valued customers.

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