

Electrocution kills employee working to restore power in N. Minnesota after storms

Fellow workers were among many who tried to save the man's life.

By [Paul Walsh](#) Star Tribune

JULY 1, 2018 — 6:23AM

A 33-year-old line worker helping to restore electricity in a storm-rattled northern Minnesota community was electrocuted and died, authorities said.

The incident occurred shortly before 6 p.m. Friday in Orr, roughly 50 miles southeast of International Falls, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

The employee was working on a power failure when he was shocked, the Sheriff's Office said.

Lake Country Power employees, first responders and ambulance personnel all attempted to revive the man. However, he was declared dead at the scene. according to the Sheriff's Office.

"We're piecing together the information to determine what happened," said Greg Randa, the utility's general manager. "We expect the investigation will help answer questions and help determine the cause. We need to complete all fact-finding, including the autopsy."

The man's identity has yet to be released.

Severe thunderstorms rolled through the area early Friday, halting power to more than 7,500 Lake Country Power customers. The storm took down trees, power lines and broke dozens of poles near Ely, Orr, Cook, Lake Vermilion, Babbitt, and elsewhere in the co-op's service area.

NATION

Boy dies after stepping into puddle with downed power line

Associated Press | MAY 22, 2017 — 4:05PM

LAREDO, Texas — Authorities say a 14-year-old Texas boy died from electrocution after stepping into a puddle containing a downed power line during a storm that brought heavy rain, hail and strong winds to Laredo.

Laredo police spokesman Joe E. Baeza said Aldo Jordani Rojas died Sunday.

Corinne Stern, the Webb County medical examiner, said Monday that the death is being ruled accidental. Stern says it appears the puddle became electrified.

Baeza says their investigation will include trying to determine when the line came down.

The storm damaged roofs, downed trees and caused power outages. Some area schools were closed Monday.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection said effects of the storm caused operations to be temporarily suspended at the World Trade Bridge, which is only for commercial traffic between the U.S. and Mexico.