

MAKING HEADWAY

Crews race to solve outages before storm

By **BRIAN BARBER**
World Staff Writer

About 71,000 Tulsa metro-area homes and businesses remained powerless Friday night, but utility officials expect to cut that number significantly by Saturday morning.

"We are working as fast as humanly possible," said Preston Kissman, American Electric Power-Public Service Company of Oklahoma vice president of distribution.

After the ice storm that hit Sunday, there were as many as 246,000 outages in the Tulsa area and more than 600,000 statewide in what has been called the largest blackout in Oklahoma history.

Most PSO customers should have their service returned by early next week, Kissman said.

But many customers will still have to hire a licensed electrician to fix their damaged meter before electricity can be restored, he said.

With up to 3 inches of snow expected this weekend, Kissman said linemen and tree cutters, many of whom have come here from out of state, are dedicated to working through it.

"They are tough individuals who want to see this community back on its feet," he said.

Mayor Kathy Taylor praised the company's efforts to bring the city out of the darkness.

"This has disrupted everyone's lives," she said. "We're all ready for it to be over, and we believe that will be the case very soon."

Oklahoma Gas & Electric is still reporting about 135,000 outages, with the vast majority in the Oklahoma City metro area but some as close as Sapulpa and Bixby.

SEE **STORM** A-4

Online

Get complete storm coverage including videos and slide shows of damage, helpful numbers and tips, and the latest updates.
www.tulsaworld.com/icestorm

Submit your photos of the ice storm to be included in a slide show to webmaster@tulsaworld.com

See an up-to-date map showing the Tulsa metro area power.
www.tulsaworld.com/outages

For more

- Finding Internet access. **E-1**
- Factories fall behind. **E-1**
- Be cautious on hiring. **E-1**
- Grocery shopping resumes. **E-2**



Chain Electric Co. lineman Leonard Robinson of Shreveport, La., signals success Friday after placing jumpers from a live power line to a dead line that serves an area in the 1900 block of 40th Street.

Ice storm response

71,000
outages remaining

246,000
outages at peak

2,400
utility linemen working

2,200
tree cutters working

1,860
people registered at Red Cross shelters

30,180
meals and snacks served by the Red Cross

218
structural fires from Sunday night to Friday morning

23
confirmed storm-related deaths

15,501
Tulsa residential and commercial structures impacted

15,000
trees on public properties damaged



Tulsa-area forecast

Saturday: A winter weather advisory in effect until 6 p.m. Snow — with accumulations **up to 3 inches**. Highs near freezing.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 30s.

Monday: Highs in the upper 40s.

Tuesday: Lower 50s.

Dreaming of bare necessities

By **RHETT MORGAN**
World Staff Writer

Thousands of Tulsans are envisioning what living will be like once their light switches work.

Dusty Saul's dream involves steam.

"A hot bath in a hot room," Saul said of her initial plans when the electricity returns. "We've been able to take a hot shower, but it's miserable to get out of the shower."

Since their power was zapped Sunday, Saul and her husband, Whit Smith, have been pulling limbs to the curb at their Brady Heights home.

By Friday morning, the stack was a bonfire-esque 100 feet long by roughly six feet high.

Broken by the ice storm, large limbs from towering American elms in their yard wiped out their chimney and crashed onto a backyard stable.

Decades of shade gone in matter of days.

SEE **FIRST** A-8



MIKE SIMONS / Tulsa World

Dusty Saul says a hot bath in a hot bathroom is first on her agenda once power is restored to her home.

Fire claims life of fifth victim

► Her boyfriend is in critical condition. Firefighters suspect a charcoal grill in the house was the cause.

By **NICOLE MARSHALL**
World Staff Writer

A woman died and a man was taken to a hospital in critical condition after they were found inside a burning house Friday.

The victims were identified by a neighbor as Susie Robinson and her boyfriend, Kevin Wright.

Robinson is the fifth person to die in a fire in Tulsa County since an ice storm struck the area, leaving thousands of people without electricity.

Unsafe heating and lighting methods have been found in many fires

that Tulsa firefighters have dealt with this week.

Friday's fire was caused by a charcoal grill being used inside the house, which is near the intersection of 49th Street and Boston Avenue, Officer Jason Willingham said.

The power in the house had been off since Saturday because of the winter storm.

The cause of the couple's injuries has not been determined, Willingham said.

"While they (firefighters) were inside the location, they saw some things that just did not add up to a fire scene, so they called the police department out," Willingham said.

Blood was found on a car in the driveway, one neighbor said. Homicide detectives were at the scene investigating.

Robinson, a Desert Storm veteran,

SEE **FIRE** A-3

High 36, Low 21

Colder, with snow tapering off

Complete weather on D-8



Action Line..... A-20
Ask Amy..... D-6
Bridge..... D-6
Comics..... D-6,7
Crosswords..... D-6
Editorial..... A-22

Horoscope..... C-11
Movies..... D-5
Obituaries..... A-20
Religion..... A-16,17
Stocks..... E-3,5
Transitions..... A-20

Diary of a disaster
The Tulsa World takes a day-by-day look back at the most challenging week the city has faced in decades.
Tomorrow in News

Daily - 50 cents



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