

December 18, 2007

Power Still Out For Thousands of Quebecers

Nearly 40,000 customers are still without power on the south shore, because of the strong winds that hit the area. Strong winds on the south shore have caused power outages in nearly 40,000 homes. Hydro Quebec still can not say when the power will be re-established.

They should have a better idea on Monday afternoon.

Apparently the strong winds are causing the the wires to bump together, which, for safety reasons, automatically shuts off the power.

Hydro Quebec says as long as the winds are still blowing strongly, there's not much they can do to re-establish power. But the winds are expected to start dying down.

Marc Gélinas, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, is forecasting better weather for the rest of the day.

"No rain, no snow, and the winds are dying down for southwestern Quebec," he says.

About 30 centimeters of rain fell this weekend and after the snow of last week, the city has turned its attention to slippery sidewalks and roads.

"All the hills, we'll put more attention on all those places," says Jacques Tremblay of the public works department.

Tremblay says the city is also out in full force along the 3,500 kilometres of sidewalk in the city.

Transport Quebec and the Sûreté du Québec both report no major accidents in the greater Montreal area, despite icy road conditions.

There are also delays at Dorval Airport.

Aéroports de Montréal's Web site is being updated with flight delays and cancellations

Winds were blowing between 40 and 60 kilometres an hour, with regular gusts up to 90 kilometres per hour.

The winds have already caused early-morning flights to Ottawa, Boston, and New York to be cancelled. Many more flights are expected to be called off to the Maritimes as this wind storm makes its way to the coast.

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