



March 4th, 2025

UPDATE ON VILLAGE POWER OUTAGE

On March 3rd, 2025, at approximately 11:50 PM, the Village of Merrillan experienced a full blackout due to a catastrophic failure of our primary power lines, which caught fire and melted. Thankfully, the fire self-extinguished, and our team sprang into action to assess and address the situation.

CAUSE AND RESPONSE

Our investigation revealed that the root cause of the outage was the degradation of our infrastructure over time, resulting in wires shorting out due to proximity. We immediately called in external assistance, including Jackson Electric and a mutual aid contractor, to support our Public Works crew in restoring power to the village. Despite initial reluctance from Jackson Electric to provide further aid, and a delayed response from the contractor, our team, Mike Garbers & Griffin Abbott, with the help of Karl Miller, Randy Brown, and Raymond Green, worked tirelessly to restore power. We also received technical assistance and real-time data from Dairyland Power, our wholesale provider of electricity. Everyone played a key role in our efforts to restore power safely and efficiently.

ONGOING EFFORTS

We have already been actively working with an electrical engineering company to plan a comprehensive upgrade of our infrastructure. However, this process will take time, and we must acknowledge that the decay of our existing system did not occur overnight. We are committed to finding solutions to mitigate these issues, but we must emphasize that the current state of our infrastructure poses ongoing risks.

NEXT STEPS

To ensure the stability of our system, additional work is necessary before a full engineering plan can be executed. We are prioritizing this effort and appreciate the patience and understanding of our residents as we work to bring our system up-to-date. A contractor will be arriving soon to assist in developing a plan for the meantime to ensure system stability.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Chris Wruck, Village President, at:

Email: cwruck@merrillanwi.gov

Phone: 608-487-3505

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this critical period.

Sincerely,

Chris Wruck

Village President