

Minimal Florence impact in Oconee

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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SENECA — Hurricane Florence's impact wasn't much more than some light rain and a few power outages in Oconee County.

"For Duke Energy customers in Oconee County, there was almost no impact from Hurricane Florence," Duke Energy corporate communications consultant Mikayla Kreuzberger wrote in an email. "There were only a handful of outages that may or may not have been storm-related."

At Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, vice president of communications Terry Ballenger said that minor outages took place over the weekend.

"We had scattered outages during the weekend Saturday going into Sunday afternoon," Ballenger said. "We took one of our main circuits out after a tree fell on it that feeds out of our Liberty station in Pickens County and it was off briefly until they

could get the tree off the line. In all, we had about 1,800 of our members out and it was kind of a gradual thing. Never did we have a lot of people out at one time except for when that circuit went out and that was about 1,000."

Ballenger said that all power was restored by 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"We had plenty of help in to cover all the trouble because we were expecting it to be a lot worse than it was," Ballenger said. "We were able to assign crews to just about every outage that came along."

"It was pretty mild compared to what some of the other utilities in the state and into North Carolina have seen as a result of the hurricane," he added. "We were prepared for something a lot worse than that and it turned out that it was not so bad and we're certainly grateful it wasn't."

rmorningstar@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6685
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