

## Breiner, Kirstin

---

**From:** Mark Yash [yash@snet.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 8:46 AM  
**To:** AfterIreneCT  
**Subject:** State response to Tropical Storm Irene

Much more needs to be done to coordinate emergency response between Utility workers, State and local governments. I live in the northern part of Shelton, CT. There are four main routes out of my area that were all blocked after the storm. There was only one way out which involved navigating several small/back roads. This could have been a disaster is someone needed fire or medical assistance during the several days that this situation existed. During that time, city workers were cleaning up fallen brush at the side of our roads, while the main roads were still blocked. These priority, main roads should have been cleared within hours to allow for emergency response.

I make the following suggestions:

- 1) Each city and town must have a list priority roads that get cleared first. The roads need to be cleared, not necessarily power restored. There should be a triage team (utility, government, tree) that goes to each blocked road, an assessment made as to live wire safety, then towns and utility crews can clear the debris to the side to open the roads. In this way cities and towns work together to clear priority debris to enable emergency response workers and citizens to get around.
- 2) Sufficient emergency tree and utility workers need to be planned ahead of any storm. For an east coast storm, there needs to be a plan for crews from the mid-west and west. All utility companies on the east coast tried to pull from each other and were not available since everyone was affected in a large area. Different scenarios and plans need to be put in place, and crews positioned prior to the storm, as storm damage would probably impede highway travel as well.
- 3) There needs to be more utility line workers in general on the payroll and fewer million dollar executives! High priced executives should not be tolerated and regulated per the rate request process. Suggested crew levels also need to be set.
- 4) Tree trimming used to be done on a regular basis to clear dead trees and branches hanging over power lines. I have not seen any crews in years and just by looking at the trees you can see no trimming has been done! A survey of major roads needs to be done by utility, state and local government to identify dying, injured trees that need to be taken down by government or property owners. Trees have taken over many of the roadways and while it may look nice, we all have experienced the affects first hand in recent storms.

Mark Yash

yash@snet.net

Home: 203-929-2540

Mobile: 203-209-6713