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CP grad to resume college volleyball career after cancer remission

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Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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SEVERE STORMS



MARC CHASE, THE TIMES

Main Street in Crown Point was completely closed just north of downtown due to a downed power line.

Emergencies declared after NWI hit with destructive storms Tuesday

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Severe storms ripped through the Region, toppling semitrailers, downing trees and power lines and causing widespread property damage and hundreds of thousands of power outages.

Public officials in some towns called it the worst damage they have ever seen.

Strong winds swept through Lake and Porter counties just before noon, with trees and wind damage reported in numerous locations. Flash flood warnings were in effect in eastern Lake County around noon.

Shelter-in-place warnings were issued by cities and towns across Northwest Indiana as the scale of destruction remained unclear and downed power lines could be active.

Power out across the Region

NIPSCO reported a total of 301,000 power outages Tuesday evening, with heavy concentrations in Cedar Lake, Crown Point, East Chicago, Munster, Merrillville, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Highland, Portage, St. John, Schererville and Valparaiso.

“All available resources will work to assess damage, make necessary repairs and restore power as safely and quickly as possible in the ongoing inclement conditions,” NIPSCO said in an outage update. “An estimate of when power will be restored is not able to be determined at this time.”

Over 21,000 of the outages were in Crown Point, where heavy trees had damaged power lines and blocked roadways. People should avoid and report to NIPSCO all downed electrical equipment and not

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Several schools cancel first day

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Region schools, including Crown Point Community School Corp., School Town of Munster, School City of Hobart and Valparaiso Community Schools, canceled their first days of school on Wednesday after severe storms hit the area Tuesday.

“Multiple buildings are without power and downed trees are affecting school access,” Crown Point schools announced in a message to parents on Tuesday.

Students will not be e-learning Wednesday, the message from Crown Point said. The district plans to update parents Wednesday.

Munster said it had suffered damage from the storm, but did not detail the extent in its post canceling the first day. The district canceled extracurriculars on Tuesday and until further notice.

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This is NWI’s new severe-weather reality

Dozens of motorists waited in long bumper-to-bumper lines at a packed gas station on the north side of Valparaiso.

The multiple lines of vehicles backed onto the streets as people waited to fill their tanks and gas containers for portable generators. Other customers scurried inside to fill propane tanks and buy bags of ice and other necessities.

At one gas pump, things got heated between two men.

“You don’t have to be an (expletive)!” one guy yelled. “We’re all stuck in the same situation!”

His angry assessment was spot on.

Tuesday’s severe storms leveled the playing field for tens of thousands of people in Northwest Indiana and the Chicago metro area. Mother Nature is an equal opportunity destructive force with no regard to geographical location, income levels, racial demographics or political leaning.

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