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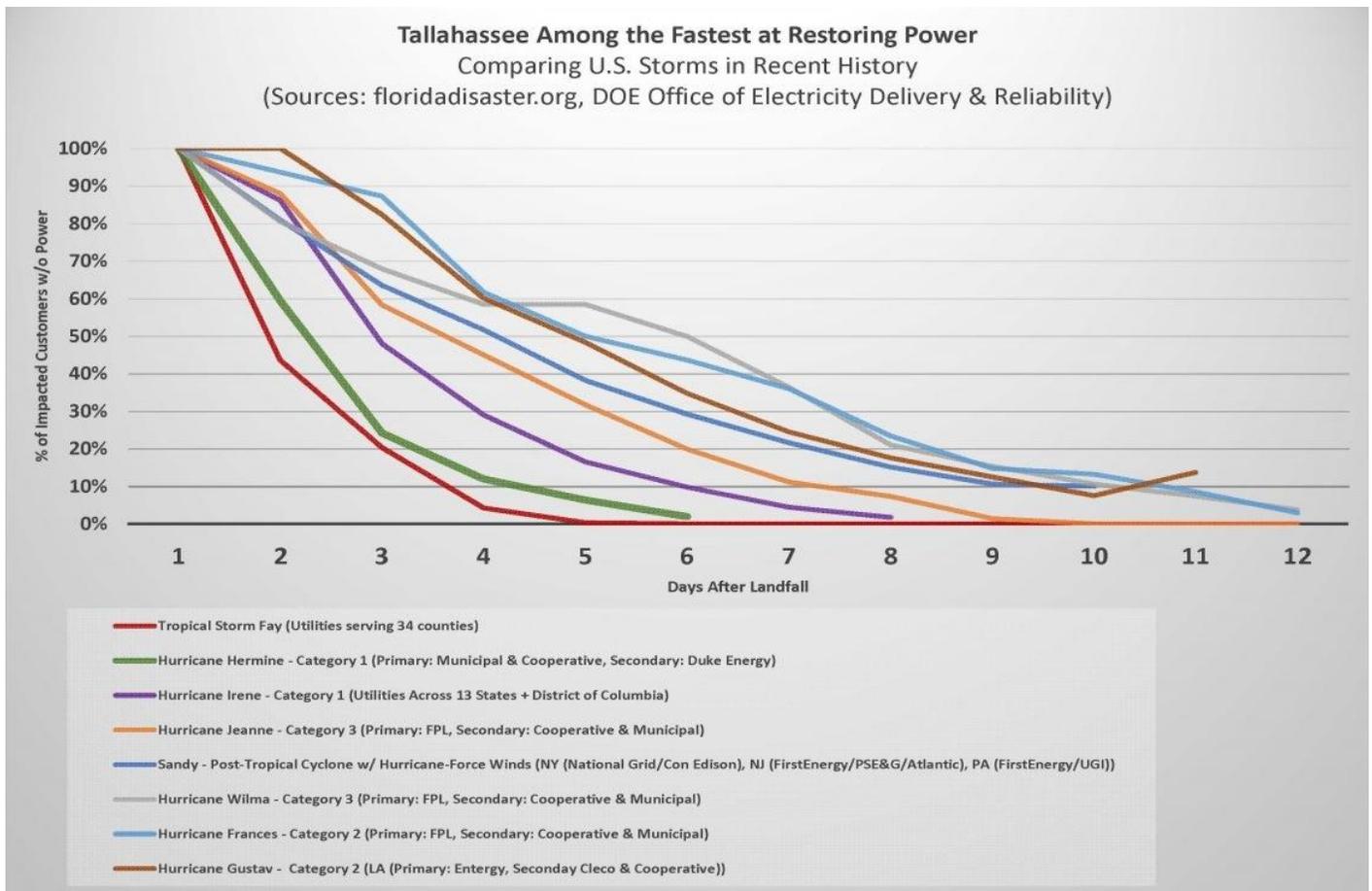
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Data Points to Tallahassee Power Restoration Efforts Being on Par or Better Than Previous Major Storms

Tallahassee, Fla. - Recent data shows that power restoration efforts by the City of Tallahassee were on par or exceeded the pace of similar efforts following a direct hit from Category 1 Hurricane Hermine in early September.

State and federal government data shows that just five days after the storm hit the Capital City, well over 90 percent of impacted power customers had their power turned back on. A day before that, more than 85 percent of city customers had power restored the 4th day after Hermine.

The chart below shows the comparison between Hurricane Hermine power restoration and other storms in Florida and the United States. Another Category 1 storm, Hurricane Irene, struck across multiple states in 2011 and the power restoration for Irene took a little longer than efforts for post-Hermine, as the chart illustrates. The chart shows several storms with various timeframes for power coming back online for customers.



Various factors impact the timing of power restoration following a severe storm. While the strength of the storm is one issue, others factors play a large role and tell a significant part of the story. For example, the Big Bend area of Florida is thick with live oak trees that hover over power lines creating the potential for additional issues versus an area predominately with palm trees, like South Florida. Another factor is the population area impacted by a storm. Hurricane Hermine hit in a major population center and received a direct strike versus a storm that may hit an area where the population is not as concentrated.

Following recovery efforts, Tallahassee leaders are conducting an after-action analysis to gage various aspects of the recovery including what went right and what could be improved upon moving forward. City leaders are hearing from local citizens and businesses, conducting an internal operations review and seeking advice from preparedness experts.

"I applaud the city's efforts to take a close look at what went well and what needs to be improved upon moving forward," said Barry Moline, Executive Director the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA). "The time for new action is now and FMEA is ready to lead this effort by calling on all utilities in Florida including investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives and municipal electrics, to work together to identify and take advantage of best practices for issues like storm restoration and communicating with our customers. We must do all we can to make sure impacted communities have a greater understanding of events and information during times of storm impact and recovery."

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The Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) represents the unified interests of 34 public power communities across the state, which provides electricity to more than 3 million of Florida's residential and business consumers.