MICHELS CORPORATION CASE STUDY

DURATION: 8 DAYS

STERLING

ELIMINATING STANDING WATER CHALLENGES

EXPERT SITE ACCESS HELPS CREWS REACH TRANSMISSION STRUCTURES

MICHELS® is a utility and infrastructure contractor based in Brownsville, Wisconsin with 40 offices from coast to coast and 14,000 pieces of heavy equipment.

Power is restored quickly and safely on a critical network, with $228K in freight savings.

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SITUATION

Sterling received an emergency response call from Michels: they needed immediate construction access after heavily saturated soil conditions caused five of MidAmerican Energy's H-Frame transmission structures to topple over and fail. The transmission line was located at the eastern extent of MidAmerican's service territory near East Moline, Illinois.

CHALLENGE

An adjacent flood control levee caused massive flooding of agricultural fields that were already saturated from abnormal levels of precipitation. Standing water between six inches to three feet added a layer of difficulty to establishing access to the damaged structures. The teams were also under pressure from the need to restore a reliable network as soon as possible for MidAmerican's large customer base.

RESULTS

Sterling mobilized within a week after the initial call (many contractors require more time). Their crews worked directly with crews from Michels and MidAmerican to create a plan that would adequately and safely support the equipment needed to repair the site and restore power.

To raise the work area above the standing water line, Sterling used a combination of traditional timber mats as a base and decked it with Sterling's wider TerraLam® 508 mats to keep large, heavy equipment up and out of the water. A total of 2,755 mats were used, including 1,446 TerraLam® 508 mats.

The Sterling team also installed a stacked runner system capped with laminate mats for approximately 7,000 linear feet and installed six 100' x 100' work pads to stabilize the repair area.

Installation took eight days, and within two weeks the circuit began transmitting power again. What's more, Michel realized a $228,000 in freight savings, thanks to using the lightweight TerraLam® 508s in the job instead of timber mats for the entire project.

A combination of timber and TerraLam® 508 mats raised the work area quickly and safely.

STERLING