



Bringing Energy Solutions to You

Insights

A monthly newsletter for all GPA Customers
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ST Sinlaku Recovery

AT A GLANCE

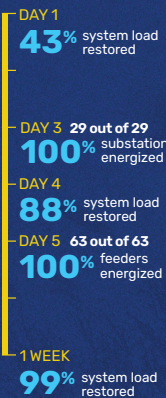
Storm Conditions

- Prolonged impacts over several days
- **Extended COR 1 status** due to slow movement and track uncertainty



Restoration Timeline

since COR 4 was declared at 12pm, April 16, 2026



On the Ground

- Crews worked **12-16 hour shifts** day and night
- Aerial work paused during unsafe wind conditions
- Vegetation clearing required in multiple villages

What Slowed Final Restoration

- **Isolated outages** (transformers, service lines, customer equipment)
- Heavy vegetation blocking access
- More complex, localized repairs after main system restoration

AFTER THE STORM

How Guam Powered Through Super Typhoon Sinlaku

While Super Typhoon Sinlaku did not make a direct hit on Guam, it still brought heavy rain, strong winds, and localized damage across the island serving as a reminder of how quickly conditions can change during storm season.

Unlike faster-moving systems, Sinlaku lingered near Guam for several days, bringing prolonged storm conditions. Guam also remained under an extended Condition of Readiness (COR) 1 status due to the storm's slow movement and continued uncertainty in its track. This required sustained coordination across agencies and careful planning to ensure the safety of crews and the public.

As conditions deteriorated, GPA crews remained active in the field for as long as it was safe to do so, securing the system and preparing for restoration. Aerial operations were temporarily paused when winds reached unsafe levels, with crews resuming full restoration efforts as soon as conditions allowed.

In the days that followed, GPA crews moved quickly to restore power and stabilize the Island-Wide Power System (IWPS). Within the first 24 hours since COR4 was announced, nearly all substations were energized, allowing crews to begin restoring distribution feeders across the island. By Day 3, all substations were fully energized, and restoration efforts shifted to neighborhoods and homes.

By Day 4, approximately 95% of distribution feeders had been energized, with crews shifting focus to isolated outages and more complex repairs. By Day 5, all 63 distribution feeders had been restored, marking a major milestone in the recovery process.

For some residents, restoration took longer due to damage beyond the main lines, including transformers, service lines, and equipment serving individual homes. In these cases, power may have been restored to surrounding areas while additional repairs were still needed to fully restore service.

Vegetation also played a significant role in the storm's impact. Downed branches and overgrowth created access challenges and required additional clearing before repairs could be completed. In many areas, restoration involved both electrical repairs and clearing pathways to reach damaged infrastructure.

Throughout the recovery, GPA crews worked extended 12-16 hour shifts, day and night, to restore service as quickly and safely as possible - even as many of their own homes were without power. GPA also relied on advanced tools, including smart meters and system monitoring technologies, to identify outages, track progress, and locate smaller pockets of customers still without service.

GPA expresses deep appreciation to the community for the overwhelming support shown to crews in villages across Guam. From offering water and food to simply allowing crews to work without interruption, that support played an important role in helping restoration efforts move forward safely and efficiently.

While Sinlaku ultimately passed without causing widespread damage, the event served as a timely reminder for both the power system and the community. As typhoon season approaches, residents are encouraged to take steps now to prepare their homes and families for future storms.



Why Some Homes Take Longer to Restore During Recovery

Following Super Typhoon Sinlaku, many customers saw power restored quickly. For others, restoration took longer and understandably raised questions.

Power is restored in stages. Crews first energize substations and restore power to critical infrastructure, including hospitals, water systems, and emergency services. From there, crews restore main distribution feeders that serve villages and neighborhoods, before moving on to smaller, more localized repairs. This means that even when power is restored to a neighborhood, some homes may still be without service.



During the Sinlaku restoration, crews restored most of the island's distribution feeders within the first few days, reaching approximately 95% by Day 4. By Day 5, all 63 feeders had been restored, allowing power to reach most areas of the island. Remaining outages were primarily isolated cases requiring more detailed repairs after the main system was stabilized.

In many cases, outages are caused by damage beyond the main lines, such as transformers, service lines, or equipment serving individual homes. These repairs take additional time and are addressed after the main system is stabilized.

Vegetation was another key factor. Downed branches and overgrowth made it difficult to access some areas, requiring clearing before repairs could begin.

There are also instances where damage occurs on the customer side of the system, such as weatherheads or meter equipment. These must be repaired before power can be safely restored.

GPA understands that waiting can be frustrating, especially when nearby homes already have service. Crews remain committed to returning to every affected area until all customers are restored.



It Was a Close Call: NOW'S THE TIME TO PREPARE

Super Typhoon Sinlaku served as a reminder that even storms that do not make a direct hit can still impact Guam in meaningful ways. With prolonged conditions, extended readiness levels, and localized damage across the island, the storm reinforced the importance of preparation for both the power system and the community.

GPA works closely with the National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office and Guam Homeland Security to monitor developing systems and provide timely updates before, during, and after storms. These partnerships help ensure that critical information is shared quickly so residents can make informed decisions and prepare accordingly.

As Guam enters typhoon season, now is the time for residents and businesses to take simple steps that can make a big difference when a storm approaches.

GPA's 4th P.O.W.E.R. Symposium Highlights Resilience and Recovery

On April 20–21, 2026, GPA held its two-day 4th P.O.W.E.R. (Promoting Optimal Ways to Energy Resilience) Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Guam, bringing together more than 150 local and federal leaders, engineers, and industry partners to advance Guam's energy future.

Held in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Sinlaku, the symposium highlighted both recovery efforts and the importance of building a more resilient and modern energy system. Governor Lou Leon Guerrero reaffirmed the goal of undergrounding power lines following lessons from Typhoons Mawar and Sinlaku.

GPA General Manager John Benavente, P.E. emphasized that recovery reflects years of strategic planning. "Our ability to reconnect the grid, stabilize generation, and restore power in phases is not by accident," he said, noting that restoration prioritizes critical infrastructure such as hospitals, water systems, and emergency services, while also supporting neighboring islands.

John J. Cruz Jr., P.E., Assistant General Manager of Engineering & Technical Services, highlighted GPA's transformation under the Integrated Resource Plan, pointing to progress in grid modernization, customer experience, affordability, and digital systems.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: MANAGING VEGETATION

Vegetation was one of the leading causes of storm-related outages during Sinlaku. While GPA conducts vegetation management along primary power lines and within utility easements all year round, trees and vegetation overgrowth on private property remain the responsibility of the property owner.

Keeping trees trimmed and away from power lines, homes, and surrounding structures can significantly reduce the risk of damage and speed up restoration after a storm. Overgrown branches can fall onto lines or block access, delaying repairs and contributing to extended outages in your neighborhood.



Sessions featured national and local experts addressing key areas of Guam's energy transition, including grid integration, advanced controls, energy storage, electric vehicle infrastructure, and cybersecurity, highlighting both current challenges and forward-looking solutions.

BE PREPARED BEFORE THE NEXT STORM

Sign up for Power Alerts to receive real-time outage and restoration updates

Secure outdoor items and clear loose debris

Prepare backup lighting and batteries

Review generator safety and always operate generators outdoors and away from windows

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Identify a safe place to stay if your home loses power for an extended period

Make arrangements for family members who rely on medical equipment

Keep important contact numbers accessible, including GPA Customer Service: (671) 647-5787/88/89 & GPA PSCC Dispatch (671) 475-1472/3/4

Sinlaku may have passed without widespread damage, but it highlighted how quickly conditions can change and how important it is to be ready.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility. By taking steps now, residents and businesses can help ensure a safer and smoother recovery when the next storm arrives.

GPA Earns National Safety Award



The Guam Power Authority received the American Public Power Association's 2025 Safety Award of Excellence (Diamond Level), the highest honor in its category. GPA was recognized among more than 240 utilities nationwide for its outstanding safety record and culture.

This national award reflects GPA's strong commitment to safety—ensuring employees are well-trained, informed, and return home safely each day. Safety remains central to GPA's mission as it continues delivering safe, reliable, and affordable energy to the island community.

Your elected Consolidated Commission on Utilities (CCU) holds two (2) working sessions and one (1) regular meeting monthly. Meeting location is the CCU Conference Room, Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building in Fadian, Mangilao. For more information and agencies, call the CCU Board Secretary at (671) 648-3002 or visit www.guamccu.org.

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