



# MEDIA RELEASE

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tamara McBride, Chief of Public Affairs  
 (614) 799-3695

## State of Ohio Issues Safety Tips Regarding Electricity

**Columbus, OH** – As a major winter storm exits the state after dumping as much as 10 inches of a wintry mix of snow and ice across Ohio, the Ohio Department of Public Safety reminds residents to exercise extreme caution in many areas where downed trees have disturbed power lines and disrupted utility services. As of 3 p.m. today, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio reported that an estimated 172,000 customers were without electricity across the state.

“As the worst of this storm now appears to be behind us, we cannot stress enough the importance of continued caution and safety. The mix of ice and heavy snow during the past 24 hours has impacted our state significantly and residents are urged to remain vigilant as power is being restored,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán.

### **Appliances in the home should be turned off during a power failure.**

When power is restored, higher voltage surges are possible and may cause damage to some devices. Turning off or unplugging appliances, including television sets, will help prevent surges or circuit overloads when service is restored. Leave one light on to know when power is restored.

### **Downed power lines are not safe to touch or be near, whether they are on the ground or caught in fallen trees.**

Power lines are not insulated like home extension cords, and must never be picked up or moved by individuals other than electrical utility workers. Other lines, such as cable TV or telephone lines can become energized if they come into contact with fallen, active power lines. To be safe, never touch or attempt to move any fallen lines.

### **If you are operating an electrical generator, notify your power company.**

A working generator can feed current into the power lines, creating a danger for repair workers. In addition, when power is restored, this can create a fire hazard to the generator itself.

### **If you experience frequent outages, or an outage, notify your power company.**

All outages should be immediately reported to your electric company. The company must keep a record of all outages. If you are not satisfied with the reliability of your electric service, you can contact the PUCO's toll free call center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826).

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