



MEDIA RELEASE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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State Officials Urge Caution to Those Remaining Without Power

COLUMBUS –As power is restored to Ohio counties impacted by the snow and ice storm this week, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, is reminding residents to take notice of open shelters and warming centers if they remain without power.

Here are some things to remember or to do...

- **UNLESS** there is an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. That number should **ONLY** be used if there is an emergency, or if someone is injured or in danger.
- **DO NOT GO NEAR DOWNED POWER LINE.** If there are power lines down in your neighborhood, call your utility company.
- Listen to your battery-powered radio or TV, especially for news at the top of each hour, to find out when the power might be restored.
- Dress to stay warm - wear layers, including a sweater, sweatshirt or even a jacket. You lose heat through your hands and the top of your head. Wear gloves and a knit

hat, not just a baseball cap.

- Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. Food inside should stay cold for hours if the door is left closed.
- If you have to go out, drive carefully. Remember that traffic signals may be out during a power outage. Consider each intersection to be a four-way stop and drive defensively.
- Unplug some of your major appliances. When the power comes back on, all of those appliances can create a drain or power surge. This can harm sensitive equipment. To avoid a power surge when the electricity returns, turn off computers, TVs, stereos and other unnecessary electronic equipment at the power source. Leave a light on so you'll know when the power is restored.
- If you have a generator, do not connect it to your home's power system unless it has been properly installed and disconnects you from the main power grid when it is operating. If you do not disconnect from the power grid, you can be sending electricity back down the lines; not just to your home. That could be deadly for power company workers.
- Check on your elderly neighbors or those who may have medical conditions or use medical machinery that operates on electricity. Make sure they are dressed appropriately warm. If someone needs to have machinery that operates on electricity, move them to a place where electricity is working.

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