



## **WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY TIPS**

**ISO New England wants everyone to have a warm and safe winter, so we are providing some basic tips for conserving energy, keeping your home comfortable, and controlling your energy costs. We are also providing storm tips to help people cope with power outages that could result from severe winter storms.**

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS**

#### **CONSERVE ENERGY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THOSE IN YOUR HOME.**

- Set the thermostat no higher than 68 degrees when you are at home. Lower the temperature at night and when you are not at home.
- Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows.
- Heat living space only. Keep closet doors closed and close off unused rooms.
- Don't block radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep radiators, registers and baseboard heating units dirt and dust free.
- Have your heating system serviced once a year.
- Cover through the wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home.
- Keep curtains and draperies open during the day on the south side of your home. Close them at night.
- Use the locks on windows to make them tighter and draft free.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless the fireplace is in use.
- Insulate or increase the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls.

## **IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT:**

### **STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES.**

**Assume all downed wires are “live” and keep children away from puddles or fences that are near the downed wires.**

- Persons dependent on electrically powered life support systems should have a prearranged plan with their doctor and local hospital concerning outage situations. Family members should have a list of emergency phone numbers readily available to implement the emergency plan.
- Check your own fuses or circuit breakers.
- If possible, look out your window to see if other homes in your area are also without power. Report that information, along with other pertinent information such as downed trees, limbs or wires in your neighborhood, when you report your outage to your electric company.
- Turn off major appliances during the outage to prevent overloading the circuits in your home when the power comes back on. Leave one light switched on as a signal for when the power is restored.
- Surge protectors, which are available at local electronics stores, can protect solid state equipment during an outage.
- Proper insulation will keep your home warm for several hours during an outage. Keep extra wood on hand if you have a fireplace or a wood burning stove. **NEVER BURN CHARCOAL INDOORS.**
- Power restoration begins with electrical generating plants, sub stations and electric lines which serve the greatest number of customers.

### **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO KEEP HANDY:**

**DON'T WAIT FOR A STORM TO HIT BEFORE YOU STOCK UP ON EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND REGULARLY CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR SUPPLIES TO ENSURE THEIR USABILITY.**

**Emergency food.** Be aware of the expiration dates on **canned and dried foods** and replace as required. -- **Flashlights.** Have several and place them throughout the house -- **Portable radio** -- **Fresh batteries** of the correct size -- **Candles** and **matches** -- **Sterno** -- **Manual can opener** -- **First aid kit** -- **Water** for drinking and cooking -- **Blankets** -- Wood or coal for heat (if appropriate) -- Pet food (if appropriate) -- Emergency supplies should be stored in an easy to reach area which is high enough to avoid water damage