**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, July 10, 2020

Name, Title

(603) ###-####

**PRESS RELEASE**

**BE PREPARED FOR POWER OUTAGES**

CITY/TOWN, N.H. – Power outages are likely to affect (\**insert areas of the state*\*). Residents and visitors are reminded to report power outages to local power utility companies.

[Description of the blackout/power outage event here.]

[Important safety information and tips here.]

LOCAL WARMING/COOLING CENTER INFORMATION: location(s), times of operation, contact information, policy on bringing pets, transportation, etc.

Report power outages to your utility provider:

* Eversource: (800) 662 7764
* Liberty Utilities: (855) 349-9455
* NH Electric Co-op: (800) 343 6432
* Unitil Capital Area: (888) 301-7700

Customers without power should continue to call their service providers at least daily until power is restored.

Report emergencies to 9-1-1.

Remember to check on friends and neighbors when it is safe to do so and follow these safety recommendations:

* Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep cold for 4 hours and a full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
* Leave one light on so that you will know when the power comes back on.
* Turn off the electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
* Use flashlights for emergency lighting. Candles can cause fires.
* Only use your generator outside of your home, do not run it inside a home or garage or connect it to your home's electrical system.
* Monitor the weather and plan accordingly.
	+ Dress appropriately for the weather.
	+ In hot weather, stay in lowest level of your home or find a cooling center.
	+ In cold weather: Find your local warming center or somewhere else that is warm. DON’T use your stove as a source of heat
* Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family and pets away from them. Call 9-1-1 to report downed power lines.
	+ If a power line falls on your vehicle, remain inside until first responders arrive.
* If you encounter a downed power line, stay away and call 9-1-1.
* Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people and people with access and functional needs.

**Be Safe After a Blackout or Power Outage**

* Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40°F for 2 or more hours or that has an unusual odor, texture, or color. When in doubt, throw it out.
* If food in the freezer is colder than 40°F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.
* Contact your doctor if you are concerned about medications having spoiled.

*\*Important language to know:\**

* Blackout: A failure of electrical power supply.
* Power Outage: A short- or long-term loss of the electric power to an area.
* Rolling Blackout: When electric companies shut down power to an area for a certain amount of time in order to avoid a total blackout of the power system.
* Electric Grid: The network that gets power from the power company to the consumer. It consists of power stations, transmission lines, and transformers.
* Energy Conservation: Using less energy by turning off lights or the TV, or walking, or biking instead of driving a car.

*\*Contact Information to Include:\**

* Residents can call 2-1-1 for public shelter locations and information.
* Local warming/cooling center contact information.
* Learn more about blackout and power outage preparedness at ReadyNH.gov.

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