



**Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant**

Post Office Box 870

Taunton, Massachusetts 02780-0870

Serving a Public Power Community

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2015

Contact: Bill Strojny

508-824-3177

### **Winter Blizzard is on the way!**

#### **Here's what you can do to prepare**

Taunton, Mass. – January 26, 2015 – A large winter storm is presently on track to impact the Taunton and surrounding areas with a volatile mix of wind, snow and possibly some rain beginning on Monday afternoon January 26 and continuing through Wednesday night January 28. According to the National Weather Service, a blizzard watch means there is a potential for considerable falling and/or blowing snow with sustained winds or frequent gusts over 35MPH and visibilities below ¼ mile for at least three hours. Whiteout conditions will be possible making travel very dangerous.

TMLP is monitoring the weather in our service territory; we will be setting up our storm center and have crews on premise to respond. TMLP will respond to the system needs as the damage reports come in, and will work with Taunton Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and local City and Towns to assure good communications between the departments. Based on the storm prediction it is anticipated that there may be power outages due to down trees and limbs do to the heavy wind and snow. If needed TMLP we will bring additional support through mutual aide to assist in the power restoration.

Our SCADA monitoring and control system often gives us first notification of a large power outage. We also get reports from public safety agencies and local police and fire departments. Please report your outages and any detail related including down trees and wires etc. This information will assist in our restoration efforts. Please use our number (508 824 3111). Do not assume your outage has been reported.

TMLP implements its emergency plan for large of operation which places the efforts of the entire company behind power restoration 24-hours a day. We will try to restore electric service to the maximum number of customers in the shortest possible time.

### **Before The Storm**

With the signs of an approaching or winter storm, there are things that you can do to prepare.

- Stock up on non-perishables, such as canned goods, and make sure you have adequate medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Keep areas surrounding electrical service equipment clear.
- Turn the temperature controls on your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting to keep food cold in the event of a power outage. Don't forget to reset controls to the normal setting after the storm.

*General Manager, Kenneth Goulart; Commissioners; Mark Blackwell Sr., Chairman, Peter Corr, Secretary, Joseph Martin*



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- Fill several large containers and the bath tub with water.
- Keep flashlights, batteries, candles and matches on hand.
- Fill your car with gasoline.
- Stay tuned to local weather forecasts for storm updates and have a battery-powered radio available.
- If you have special needs, such as life support equipment, be prepared in advance in the event you lose power.

Emergency supplies should be stored in an easy to reach area. These include:

- Emergency food – be aware of the expiration dates and replace as required.
- Flashlights – have several and place them throughout the house.
- Portable, battery-operated radio.
- Fresh batteries – of the correct size for flashlights and radio.
- Manual can opener.
- First aid kit.
- Water – for drinking, cooking and flushing.
- Pet food.
  
- In the winter, close off unused rooms to conserve heat. Open curtains and shades to let sunlight in; close them at night. Stock up on firewood.

If you experience a service interruption please:

- Call TMLP on our outage line "[Report an Outage](#)" 508-824-3111
- Stay clear of all fallen tree limbs and electrical wires as well as anything they are touching. Assume all downed wires are "live" and stay away. Call TMLP.
- Persons dependent on electrically powered life support systems should have a prearranged plan concerning power outage situations.
- Prepare a list of emergency phone numbers and have it readily available.
- Disconnect appliances that will go on automatically when the power is restored. These include refrigerators, stoves, furnaces and water heaters.
- Turn off appliances such as washers, dryers, computers and TV's. Once power is restored, turn appliances back on one at a time to avoid a power surge.
- If using candles or matches, be extremely careful and never leave open flames unattended.
- Food in your refrigerator will keep for 6 to 9 hours, and food in your freezer will keep between 36 and 48 hours. It will help to minimize the number of times the door is opened.
- Dress in layers and wear a hat.
- Monitor TMLP's website for updated outage information