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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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NEWS RELEASE

PRACTICE POWER OUTAGE SAFETY AS STORM LINGERS OVER NEW HAMPSHIRE

More Than 70,000 Utility Customers Remain Without Power

CONCORD, N.H. – As of 7:30 p.m., more than 70,000 utility customers are without power. According to the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, strong wind gusts will continue through Wednesday. The New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and NH State Fire Marshal’s Office urge residents and visitors to practice power outage safety.

“Stay informed of storm changes by signing up for NH Alerts and monitoring local weather reports,” said HSEM Director Robert Buxton. “If you come across downed wires, stay away and call 9-1-1, and never drive around road barriers.”

Report power outages to your utility provider every 24 hours until it is restored:

Eversource	1-800-662-7764
Liberty Utilities	1-855-349-9455
NH Electric Co-Op	1-800-343-6432
Unitil	1-888-301-7700

Snowfall amounts from this storm could create blockages around building vents and put residents and visitors at risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

“Be sure to shovel snow away from vents,” said State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey. “Never run a generator inside your home. Only operate generators outdoors and make sure your generator is at least 10 feet away from windows, doors, and vents. Carbon monoxide is an invisible killer and can build up quickly. Unfortunately, it is odorless and colorless, and can kill you and your family in minutes.”

Director Buxton and State Fire Marshal Toomey provide these additional winter weather reminders:

- Drivers should use extra caution, go slow and be alert for crews clearing debris. Never drive around barriers or remove them from closed roadways.
- Find the latest road conditions at newengland511.org.
- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles and never crowd the plow.
- Clear all snow and ice off your car, including your roof, around lights, and license plates before traveling.
- Bridges, overpasses, and exposed road areas are the most prone to slippery conditions.

- Plan two ways out of your home in case of emergency.
- Clear the driveway and front walk from ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Only use a generator that has been wired to the building electrical service by a professional electrician.
- Do not run a generator in the garage, even if the door is open, because carbon monoxide can still build up to very dangerous levels, very quickly.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, emergency responders will be able to find you.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Also turn them off when you go to bed.
- Use flashlights, rather than candles, for emergency lighting.
- Check on neighbors and others who may need help.

Learn more about emergency preparedness at [ReadyNH.gov](https://www.ReadyNH.gov).

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