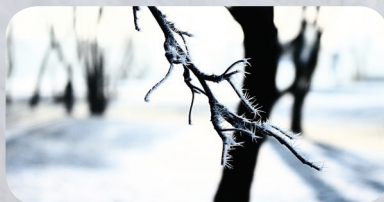


## Preparing for Winter Storms

Many people plan to stock up on supplies in case of a winter storm power outage, but other commitments and a sudden storm could put a halt to last minute preparations. In addition, stores often sell out of essentials quickly once an impending storm hits the media, as seen frequently when a hurricane is approaching. Fall months in Delaware tend to have less severe weather, making it the perfect time to get prepared for winter. Here's an idea of what to have on hand to be as comfortable and safe as possible during a winter storm:

- Water – one gallon per person, per day.
- Food – a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight
- Extra Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- 7-day supply of medications
- Sand, rock salt, or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways less slippery
- Warm clothing and blankets
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation/personal hygiene items
- Extra baby supplies
- Extra pet supplies
- Candles
- Important documents (ID, medical records, social security records, emergency contacts. etc.)



## Handling Downed Lines

Assisting a person in danger is a first instinct for most individuals, but when power lines are involved it is vital to know the right way to help. Unknowingly placing yourself or others in harms way can quickly escalate an emergency situation. Severe storms and vehicle accidents are common causes of downed lines, and DEC wants our members to be prepared.

The misconception that a downed energized line sparks, moves, or shows other signs of leaking electricity is very dangerous. Although this can be true, it often is not, and an energized line may appear harmless. Assume that all lines, even ones that have snapped, have electricity flowing through them.

When a power line falls to the ground, dangerous levels of electricity are pulsed across the surface in waves away from the line. Stepping into this area could lead to serious injury or fatal electrocution, without even coming into direct contact with a line. As a general rule, stay 10-15 feet away from any area where a line is touching the ground or an object on the ground, such as a car.

Upon encountering power lines brought down onto or near a vehicle, stay away and warn others not to approach either. The driver should remain inside, and emergency responders must be contacted. Individuals inside the vehicle should not try to exit; the metal frame on the car protects them as long as they remain inside. Trying to exit could lead to electrocution from the frame of the car or from ground current.

In the rare event that the car is on fire, the occupants should exit by hopping out of the car without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Shuffling away with feet together is the best way to prevent current flow through the body. However, it is almost always safest to remain in the vehicle.

Any situation involving electricity, especially high voltage power lines, is exceptionally dangerous. Always contact emergency responders and the electric company to ensure lines are de-energized before approaching an emergency scene with compromised lines or utility poles.



## Identifying Utility Poles

Would you be able to look at a utility pole and determine if it belongs to DEC? Look no further than the small tags posted on the side of each pole. Each electric company has their own type of tags and pole numbering that differentiates them from other providers. Delaware Electric's poles will have a yellow vertical tag. Also, above the numbers on our vertical tags, there is "DEC" written in small letters. The numbers on the tags are mapped out in our computer system, so we can easily find damaged poles and know when maintenance is needed.





# How DEC Members Are Beating the Peak this Fall

We asked our members on Facebook to tell us how they plan to help us Beat the Peak as temperatures drop this fall and winter. Here are their tips to save energy in the colder months:

“Use more blankets and keep the heat to a healthy and economical 68 degrees.”

-Jennifer Wooleyhand

“Closing off rooms that we don't use helps, and wearing long sleeves.”

-Veronica Gonce

“Buy cellular window shades that have the energy efficient star, which saves you money. Do full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine [and] use the air dry setting on your dishwasher. Shut doors in rooms you don't use and vents. Unplug appliances [and] lamps rarely used as the electric is still costing you for being plugged in.”

-Dawn Marie Burgold Curto

“We have been cutting wood all summer to heat the house for the winter! Cold, brisk nights with a blanket and fire sounds really cozy to me!”

-Don and Heather Grebe

“I use the clothes dryer late, 10ish, heating the garage that has a bedroom above it. New pull down shades keep the heat in and the cold out. Cute draft dodgers by doors.”

-Debbie Nye Moran

“I cook on my wood stove whenever possible. We also use drying racks to hang our clothes on in front of our wood stove to avoid using the dryer.”

-Jennifer Lawson

Connect with us on social media for more tips and Co-op updates!



## Contact Us

To report an outage, review account information or for member services please call:

Phone: 1-855-DEC-9090

Email: callcenter@decoop.com  
14198 Sussex Highway  
Greenwood, DE 19950

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.delaware.coop

Drive-up window and the call center are open  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Night deposit is available

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# Cooperative CONNECTIONS

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- Preparing For Winter Storms
- How Members Are Beating the Peak
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## Submit Photos for Delaware Living!

We hope you enjoyed reading the 2014 edition of Delaware Living magazine, the second of its kind produced at Delaware Electric. Our members submitted many beautiful pictures from across our service territory and we appreciate all the contributions made to produce a beautiful magazine! We are excited to feature new photos from you in our 2015 edition, submissions are already being accepted. To submit a photo, email the picture to our Delaware Living Editor, Jeremy Tucker, at JTucker@decoop.com. Photos shown were submitted by Tim and Laurie Stuchlik.

