

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Citizen Disaster Information

Missouri received an emergency declaration which brings federal resources such as generators to run water treatment plans or food and water for mass shelters for emergency protection actions. The State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies must conduct damage assessments with local governments BEFORE the declaration might be expanded to include other programs of assistance.

Missouri / FEMA Do Not Reimburse Citizens for Generator Purchases

Neither the State of Missouri nor Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimburse citizens generator purchases. For more information contact your local emergency management agency or visit www.sema.dps.mo.gov

Carbon Monoxide, Generator and Home Heater Safety Tips

Keep generators outside of occupied buildings and never run a generator in an attached garage.

Never use fossil fueled (propane, kerosene or heating oil) space heaters in an enclosed room; these heaters require a well ventilated area to prevent the accumulation of carbon monoxide.

Do not use extension cords to power electric space heaters or use any electric heater that has the cord frayed, repaired or improperly replaced.

Power Outage safety: **Pull some plugs.** Turn off or disconnect the refrigerator, freezer, television, air conditioner and other major appliances that would go on automatically when the power is restored. This precaution will avoid overloading a circuit when power comes back on—and the chance of a second interruption. After power is restored, turn them on one at a time. **Flip a switch.** Turn one or two light switches on so you will know when your service is restored.

For information concerning winter fire safety, contact your local fire department or the **Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office at (573) 751-2930** or <http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov>

Treating Water for Emergency Use

If you are uncertain of the purity of your water source, you should treat the water before drinking or storing it. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services or the Department of Natural Resources suggest the following steps to purify water of questionable quality.

For both Method #1 and #2, **filter the water to remove as much sediment and suspended solids as possible.** This can be done by letting the water sit undisturbed overnight, then carefully pouring the top portion into another container for further treatment. Another, quicker way to remove solids from water is to pour it through paper coffee filters; similarly, a clean fine-knit cloth (like a T-shirt, clean panty hose or even several layers of cheesecloth) can be used to strain the water.

Method #1 Boiling

Bring the water to a boil; once water is vigorously bubbling, maintain the boil for at least three minutes before using. Let the water cool at least 30 minutes before using. The "flat" taste of boiled water can be improved by pouring the water back-and-forth between clean, disinfected containers to dissolve air back into the water.

Method #2 Chemical Disinfection

Using liquid, **unscented chlorine laundry bleach** mix one-half teaspoon bleach with two-and-one-half gallons of filtered water. Let stand at least 30 minutes before using! Other volumes of water can be disinfected at the rate of three drops of bleach per quart of filtered water; for example, 12 drops of bleach for a gallon of water, or one teaspoon (60 drops) for 5 gallons of water.



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State Dept of Health on Private Wells Affected by Power Outage

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said most private water wells that lost power during recent storms in southeastern and southern Missouri are unlikely to pose a contamination risk. Unlike public water systems, private well pumps and systems are designed for intermittent pressure surges. All homeowners using private wells are encouraged to test the water at least once a year, regardless of any power interruption. Water testing kits and additional detailed information on well disinfection can be obtained by calling your local public health department or the **Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 573-751-6095 the DSR at 1-800-392-0272** or www.dhss.mo.gov or the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.mo.gov/disaster.htm** .

State Dept of Health on Food Safety to Avoid Illness

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services urges residents to be extremely cautious with food stored in refrigerators and freezers that lost power after storms swept through southeast and southern Missouri. Refrigerated or frozen food that has thawed can become home to growing bacteria such as salmonella and listeria, which can cause potentially serious food-borne illness. **The bottom line is: when in doubt, throw it out.**

Use a Thermometer: Check to be sure food is being stored at safe temperatures (34 to 41°F for the refrigerator; 0°F or below for the freezer). Most food-borne illness is caused by bacteria, which can multiply rapidly at temperatures above 41°F. Dispose of food if it is above 41°F

Leave the Freezer Door Closed: A full freezer should keep food safe about two days; a half-full freezer, about a day. You may add ice to keep freezer items cold.

Non-perishable food in cans, bottles, jars or boxes and kept in cupboards and cabinets are generally safe. Foods such as canned fruits and juices, bread products, fresh/raw fruits and vegetables, boxed cereals and mixes, jarred pickles, ketchup, mustard, jams and jellies should all be safe to consume. For more information contact DHSS at 573-751-6095 or visit www.dhss.mo.gov

Public Service Commission on Power Outages

Assume all downed power lines are energized. Brush, shrubs, and downed trees may hide downed power lines. Stay clear of a downed power line and call the utility or emergency personnel to report downed lines.

Most electric utilities do not own the weatherhead (the pipe that is above your meter and is typically attached to the side of your house or extends above your roof). If you own the weatherhead and it has damage that makes it unsafe, the utility cannot restore your electric service until the damage is repaired. In this case, the homeowner will need to hire an electric contractor to make repairs.

There are several utility web sites that have outage information including outage maps, recent press releases and safety information:

www.ameren.com : AmerenUE (this includes county and zip code specific outage numbers.)

www.amec.org : The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (this includes links to the various member cooperatives' web sites.)

www.mpua.org . : The Missouri Public Utility Alliance has a links to municipal electric utilities throughout the state.

United Way's 211 Refers Services to Citizens, Directs Volunteers

United Way's 211 is a statewide referral service for citizens you need information about available services, or volunteers wanting to donate their time or equipment to local governments. If you have disaster related needs or if you would like to volunteer **call 2-1-1 from a land line or 1-800-427-4626 from your cell phone.**

Help for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities

Situations in which an individual may be at risk of imminent physical danger or harm due to health or circumstances may be reported to the Aging and Adult Abuse Hotline: 1-800-392-0210.

Department of Insurance Website Answers Homeowners Policy Questions

Q&As on home owners policy coverage is: <http://www.insurance.mo.gov/consumer/weather/winterStormFAQ.htm>