

NOTICE!



February 26, 2021

RE: TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT WILL REQUIRE AN EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGE AFFECTING THE NEW LONDON AREA

Dear Member,

Firelands Electric Cooperative just received notice from its transmission provider that the lines delivering electric power to Firelands Electric's New London substation will be taken out of service for an emergency planned transmission outage that is **scheduled to begin around 9AM on Sunday, March 7**. The transmission provider will be making critical equipment repairs, **and estimates the work will take approximately 8 hours**.

This transmission line feeds Firelands Electric's distribution system that delivers power to more than 1,850 cooperative members in and around the New London area. Based on weather, temperatures, and our load, the cooperative will be able to backfeed power to a small portion of the affected area to minimize the number of outages. Several businesses that will receive backfeed power include: Gas Depot, Mickey Mart, McDonald's, Miller's SuperValu, Pizza House, Mr. Pizza Head, and The Laurels of New London.

Firelands Electric's member-consumers affected will receive notification via phone and/or email regarding if their specific location will be included in the outage or backfeed process. **A majority of the members receiving their power from the cooperative's New London substation will be affected by this emergency planned transmission outage.**

The transmission provider is bringing in multiple crews to complete this work as quickly as possible, which includes replacement of a critical pole and other equipment. Firelands Electric will make every effort to communicate updates during the outage on our website, www.FirelandsEC.com, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. **Please make sure cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are fully charged prior to the outage** in order to access the latest information.

The cooperative encourages members with sensitive electronic equipment and computers to shut off their devices prior to the scheduled outage, and have some type of surge protection or battery backup in place. We urge members with medical issues to make arrangements for backup power during this project. Members impacted are encouraged to visit our website or FoodSafety.gov regarding refrigerated food and power outages at www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts.

This emergency transmission work is necessary to make critical repairs to prevent equipment failure that could result in a lengthy unplanned outage. Firelands Electric is making every attempt to provide sufficient notice within the timeframe we have been given so that members can make the necessary arrangements for comfort and medical needs. Firelands Electric Cooperative apologizes for this inconvenience and we would like to thank our membership for their patience and understanding.



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Outage Hotline: 1-800-533-8658 • www.FirelandsEC.com

Help! The Power Is Out...

Sudden power outages can be **frustrating** and **troublesome**, especially when they are prolonged. Perishable foods should not be held above 40 degrees for more than 2 hours. **If a power outage is 2 hours or less, you need not be concerned.** but how do you save your food when the refrigerator is out for longer times? Being prepared can help. By planning ahead, you can save your perishables.

What do I need?

- One or more **coolers**. Inexpensive styrofoam coolers can do an excellent job as well.
- **Ice**. Surrounding your food with ice in a cooler will ensure that it will stay cold.
- **Shelf-stable foods**, such as canned goods and powdered or boxed milk. These can be eaten cold or heated on the grill.
- A digital quick-response **thermometer**. A digital thermometer should be a necessity in your kitchen anyway. With these thermometers you can quickly check the internal temperatures of food for doneness and safety.



What to do...

Do **not** open the refrigerator or freezer.

Tell your little ones not to open the door. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold enough for at least a couple of hours. A freezer that is half full will hold for up to 24 hours and a full freezer for 48 hours. (See chart on back for more details.)

If it looks like the power outage will be for more than 2-4 hours, pack refrigerated milk, dairy products, meats, fish, poultry, eggs, gravy, stuffing and left-overs into your **cooler** surrounded by **ice**. (See chart on back for more details.)

If it looks like the power outage will be **prolonged**, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items,



Q's and A's

What if I go to bed and the power is still not on? Before you go to bed, pack your perishables into your coolers if you haven't already done so and put in as much ice as you can. Also, when you go to bed, leave a bedroom light switched on. When the power goes back on, it will wake you, so you can check the condition of your foods in the freezer. If freezer foods still have ice crystals, they can be refrozen.

What if the power goes out while I'm at work or out of the house and it has been more than a few hours before I get home? Try to determine how long the power has been out. Check the internal temperature of the food in your refrigerator with your quick-response thermometer. A liquid such as milk or juice is easy to check. Spot check other items like steaks or left-overs also. If the internal temperature is above 40 degrees, it is best to throw it out. (Check the chart on the back.) If the food in the freezer is not above 40 degrees and there are still ice crystals, you can refreeze.

What if the power goes out and comes back on while I am out? If your freezer is fairly full and you know it was not longer than 24 hours, the food should be OK. There will be loss of quality with refreezing, but the food will be safe. If the refrigerator was out for more than 2-4 hours, you are best to discard the perishables.



Prepared by Giant Food, Inc., Landover, Maryland, June 1999. Used with permission. Original content adapted from "Help, Power Outage!" Food News for Consumers, Summer 1989, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service.

What Should Be Discarded After A Power Outage?



As soon as the power returns, **check temperatures**. If the food in the freezer has ice crystals and is not above 40 degrees you can refreeze. Perishable foods in the refrigerator should not be above **40 degrees F** for more than two hours. **Use this chart** to see what has to be discarded and what can be kept.

| Frozen Foods | Still Contains Ice Crystals. Not Above 40° F | Thawed, Held Above 40° F For Over 2 Hours |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meat and Mixed Dishes: | | |
| Beef, veal, lamb, pork, poultry, ground meat and poultry | REFREEZE | DISCARD |
| Casseroles with meat, pasta, rice, egg or cheese base, stews, soups, convenience foods, pizza | REFREEZE | DISCARD |
| Fish, shellfish, breaded seafood products | REFREEZE. MAY BE SOME TEXTURE & FLAVOR LOSS | DISCARD |
| Dairy: | | |
| Milk | REFREEZE. MAY LOSE SOME QUALITY | DISCARD |
| Eggs (out of shell), egg products | REFREEZE | DISCARD |
| Ice cream, frozen yogurt | DISCARD | DISCARD |
| Cheese (soft and semi soft), cream cheese, ricotta | REFREEZE. MAY LOSE SOME TEXTURE | DISCARD |
| Hard cheese (Cheddar, Swiss, Parmesan) | REFREEZE | REFREEZE |
| Fruits/Vegetables: | | |
| Fruit juices | REFREEZE | REFREEZE. DISCARD IF MOLD, YEASTY SMELL OR SLIMINESS DEVELOPS. |
| Home or commercially packaged fruit | REFREEZE. WILL CHANGE TEXTURE & FLAVOR | REFREEZE. DISCARD IF MOLD, YEASTY SMELL OR SLIMINESS DEVELOPS. |
| Vegetable juices | REFREEZE | DISCARD IF ABOVE 50° F FOR OVER 8 HOURS |
| Home or commercially packaged or blanched vegetables | REFREEZE. WILL CHANGE TEXTURE & FLAVOR | DISCARD IF ABOVE 50° F FOR OVER 8 HOURS |
| Baked Goods/Baking Ingredients: | | |
| Flour, cornmeal, nuts | REFREEZE | REFREEZE |
| Pie crusts, breads, rolls, muffins, cakes (no custard fillings) | REFREEZE | REFREEZE |
| Cakes, pies, pastries with custard or cheese filling, cheesecake | REFREEZE | DISCARD |
| Commercial and homemade bread dough | REFREEZE. MAY LOSE SOME QUALITY | REFREEZE. CONSIDERABLE QUALITY LOSS |
| Refrigerator Foods | Food Still Cold, Held At 40° F Or Above Under 2 Hours | Held Above 40° F For Over 2 Hours |
| Dairy/Eggs/Cheese: | | |
| Milk, cream, sour cream, buttermilk, evaporated milk, yogurt | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Butter, margarine | KEEP | KEEP |
| Baby formula, opened | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Eggs, egg dishes, custards, puddings | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Hard & processed cheeses | KEEP | KEEP |
| Soft cheeses, cottage cheese | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Fruits/Vegetables: | | |
| Fruit juices, opened; canned fruits, opened; fresh fruits | KEEP | KEEP |
| Vegetables, cooked; vegetable juice, opened | KEEP | DISCARD AFTER 6 HOURS |
| Baked potatoes | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Fresh mushrooms, herbs, spices | KEEP | KEEP |
| Garlic, chopped in oil or butter | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Meat/Poultry/Seafood: | | |
| Fresh or leftover meat, poultry, fish or seafood | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Lunchmeats, hot dogs, bacon, sausage, dried beef | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Canned meats (NOT labeled "Keep Refrigerated" but refrigerated after opening) | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Canned hams labeled "Keep Refrigerated" | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Mixed Dishes/Side Dishes: | | |
| Casseroles, soups, stews, pizza with meat | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Meat, tuna, shrimp, chicken, egg salad | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Cooked pasta, pasta salads with mayonnaise or vinegar base | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Gravy stuffing | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Pies/Breads: | | |
| Cream- or cheese-filled pastries and pies | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Fruit pies | KEEP | KEEP |
| Breads, rolls, cakes, muffins, quick breads | KEEP | KEEP |
| Refrigerator biscuits, rolls, cookie dough | KEEP | DISCARD |
| Sauces/Spreads/Jams: | | |
| Mayonnaise, tartar sauce, horseradish | KEEP | DISCARD IF ABOVE 50° F FOR OVER 8 HOURS |
| Opened salad dressing, jelly, relish, taco and barbecue sauce, mustard, catsup, olives | KEEP | KEEP |