

PREPARE FOR HURRICANE IRENE

Hurricane Irene, which has now been down graded to a Category 2 storm, will very likely be a threat to our area starting Saturday night, August 27th into Sunday August 28th, 2011.

Given how much recent rainfall we have experienced as well as the 8 to 10 inches that is expected, major river and stream flooding is very likely. Record flooding is now possible.

Now is the time to initiate preparations according to your Emergency Disaster Plan, specific to your own home and family. Have plenty of food and water on hand and be prepared for power outages lasting up to three days.

As of now, the *Franklin Township Office of Emergency Management* will open a shelter if needed at the *Township Municipal building, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown*. If the county decides to open a regional shelter rather than several local municipal shelters, I will update this information and forward it at that time.

If you are in need of assistance during this storm please use the following numbers:

Police Emergency - 911

Police Non-Emergency – 908-782-9594

Office of Emergency Management – 908-566-5506 (Ken Mandoli)

REPORTING AN OUTAGE

- If your lights go out, contact your local electric utility to report an outage. The best way to do this for JCP&L and Met-Ed customers is to call the automated reporting line at
- **1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877)**. Customers also may call **1-800-545-7738 to report an outage**. Potomac Edison customers should call 1-800-255-3443.
- Report downed wires immediately to your electric company or local police or fire department. **NEVER GO NEAR A DOWNED POWER LINE**, even if you think it's no longer carrying electricity.
- Don't try to remove trees or tree limbs from power lines. Wait for utility crews to arrive.

SAFETY TIPS DURING OUTAGES

- Keep flashlights with fresh batteries in your home. Avoid using candles to light your home, especially around children and pets.
- Never use a gas stove or lantern that is intended for outdoor use inside your home.
- Make sure you have fresh batteries in a portable radio so you can stay tuned to your local radio station for updates on our progress to restore power.

OTHER TIPS DURING OUTAGES

- Avoid opening the refrigerator or freezer. A full freezer can keep food frozen for up to three days if it's kept closed.
- Disconnect major appliances until after the power has been restored. This includes appliances that run automatically, such as heating systems and water heaters, and those that may have been running when the power went off, such as ovens, ranges and clothes dryers. By disconnecting these appliances, you avoid damage that could occur during efforts to restore service. Keep one light turned on so you will know when the power is back on.

CUSTOMER GENERATORS

- Emergency power generators offer an option for customers needing or wanting uninterrupted service. However, to ensure the safety of the home's occupants as well as that of utility company employees who may be working on power lines in the area, the proper generator should be selected and installed by a qualified electrician. When operating a generator, always disconnect the power coming into your home. Otherwise, power from your generator could be sent back onto the utility company lines, creating a hazardous situation for utility workers.

JCP& L SERVES CUSTOMERS

JCP&L serves 1.1 million customers in 13 New Jersey counties, Met-Ed serves 560,000 customers in 13 Pennsylvania counties and Potomac Edison serves approximately 250,000 customers in seven Maryland counties and 135,000 customers in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

First Energy is a diversified energy company dedicated to safety, reliability and operational excellence. Its ten electric distribution companies comprise the nation's largest investor – owned electric system. Its diverse generating fleet features non – emitting nuclear, scrubbed baseload coal, natural gas, and pumped-storage hydro and other renewables, and has a total generating capacity of approximately 23,000 megawatts.