

They survive wind storm

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While residents praised each other, they had little good to say about Detroit Edison, the utility which supplies power to subscribers in the metropolitan area.

Edison crews worked 16-hour shifts in an attempt to resupply power to 33,000 affected homes in Oakland County, according to an Edison source.

"WE WERE NOT getting appropriate responses from Detroit Edison," Wells complained last Thursday. "We were getting recorded messages telling us to stay on the line if there was an emergency. We stayed on the line, but no one came."

"And then we got smart answers from Edison. They said there were crews working in our area. When we said we couldn't find them, they said, 'Then they must not be there.'"

"My husband John and I both have arthritis, and it's hard for people on canes and crutches to keep a fire going in a fireplace. John had to scrounge around outside for wood."

The food in the Wells freezer was a victim of the power outage.

"They (Detroit Edison) tell you that, yes, after 48 hours it would be spoiled," Wells said. "They also tell you it's not their responsibility."

Added Tarter, "The power people, or anyone else, when you owe them some money, they want to be paid. And there's a penalty if you don't pay them on time."

"Now, they say this storm is an act of God. Well, fine, but maybe after all this time without power Edison should pay a fine."

Paul Potter, community affairs di-

rector for Detroit Edison, said he received few complaints about lack of power.

"In the Farmington area, we have 15 electrical circuits, and 12 of them had substantial trouble," Potter said. "That would mean about 8,000 customers out of service."

"It was a very unusual storm in that it was very broad based. It probably was worse than the 1979 ice storm in that respect."

TARTER HAS unpleasant memories of that April ice storm five years ago when a three-day power outage stifled his sump pump, leaving six inches of water in his basement.

And Tarter isn't likely to have enjoyable thoughts of the windstorm of 1984.

"You're cold, you're not eating properly or getting enough sleep," he said. "At first, it's an experience. After a while, you're getting on each other's nerves in that cold, dark house, making mountains out of molehills."

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If a joint is painful, or in the instance of the knee, gives way, why not use a brace or splint to support the joint or ease its distress?

In general, such bracing is useful for an unstable joint, or one that is disabled because of weakness in the surrounding muscles. Neither problem is primary in arthritis, in which inflammation of the joint lining is the main problem.

However there are instances where bracing is useful for an arthritic joint. One is if you have a problem involving the wrist position. In such a case, it is best to use plastic splint which puts the wrist in a better position to function, that is in an upward (extended) posture.

Metal braces are rarely used because of the difficulty of fitting the brace to arthritic joints which are often swollen and constantly changing in size.

Something To Think About

BOB ROCK DIRECTOR

ORIGIN OF THE WAKE

Do you know what the origin of the wake is? Well, it originally began as a 24-hour vigil or watch at the side of the newly deceased. Family and friends would rotate the duty of watching over the body to be certain that if there were movement, someone would be "awake" to notice and summon the doctor. It was a way of insuring that no one was buried alive. It was similar in purpose to attaching a cord from the hand of the deceased to a bell above ground should he or she happen to awaken.

Social customs and rituals of death have changed a great deal since then. No one is concerned that a body prepared for burial will suddenly leap to life. Today's wakes or visitations are more an opportunity for friends of the family to share their sympathy and extend condolences. The "laying out" of the body is intended to facilitate the grief process, giving people a last opportunity to see this individual and pay their respects.

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