

Detroit Edison offers tips for summer storms

When thunder booms, lightning flashes and winds blow in southeastern Michigan, Detroit Edison promises to have crews ready to restore the unavoidable power outages that thunderstorms can cause.

Customers who may encounter hazardous situations involving power lines should follow the most important safety rule: stay away from downed power lines and anything downed lines may be touching.

Fallen wires should be reported immediately to Detroit Edison by calling 1-800-477-4747 so public safety teams can be dispatched to secure the area until crews can remove the hazard. Detroit Edison customers also may use the same "800" number to report power outages or receive restoration estimates using its automated features.

When severe weather happens, Detroit Edison recommends the following tips when electrical service is interrupted:

- Always be prepared for an emergency.

A battery-operated radio, fresh replacement batteries, a flashlight and candles, a first-aid kit, bottled water and non-perishable food should be kept in a centralized location.

- Don't open refrigerators and freezers more often than absolutely necessary. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for 12 hours. Kept closed, a well-filled freezer will preserve food for two to three days. Partially thawed food or food that has ice crystals usually can be refrozen.

- Turn off lights and unplug all appliances and sensitive electronic devices like computers to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored. Leave one light switch on to indicate when service returns.

- During low-voltage conditions -- when lights are dim and television pictures are smaller -- shut off motor-driven appliances such as refrigerators to prevent overheating and possible damage. Sensitive electronic devices also should be unplugged.

unplugged.

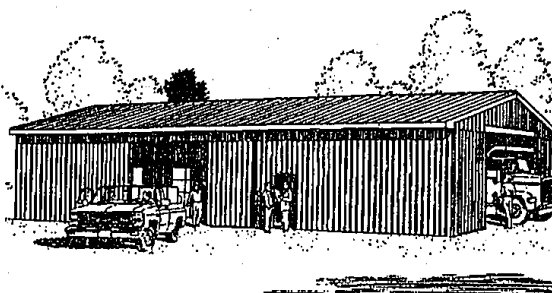
- Disconnect house circuits from Detroit Edison power lines if using a portable generator. Put or switch to "off" all main fuses or circuit breakers to protect line crews working to restore service. Always operate generators outdoors to avoid dangerous buildup of toxic fumes.

- Stay out of flooded or damp basements or other areas if water is in contact with outlets, a furnace or any electrically operated appliance that is energized. The water or moisture may serve as a conductor of electricity. You could be electrocuted even if wearing rubber boots.

- Listen to local radio stations for updates from Detroit Edison about electric service restoration efforts.

Customers may request copies of Detroit Edison's brochure, "Weathering the Storm," by calling the utility's customer service number, 1-800-477-4747, or by visiting its Web site, <http://www.detroitdison.com>

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