



Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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(Taunton, MA) – As weather forecasters continue to keep an eye on Hurricane Earl, the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant is gearing up for any effects of the storm regardless of whether the storm directly hits New England.

“Our emergency plan is in place and the crews are on call in the event there are power outages from the high winds and heavy rains,” TMLP General Manager Mike Horrigan said. “Traffic could also be impeded because of fallen trees, tree limbs and downed wires. If you do see a downed power line **STAY AWAY** from it. It could be **LIVE**”

“We are asking that our customers be prepared in the event of an outage,” he added. “And if you do have a generator, make sure that it is not plugged into your home's main electrical panel. This could result in serious injury or death to TMLP personnel working to restore the power.”

General Manager Horrigan recommends the following storm preparations :

- make sure there are fresh batteries in the house for radios and flashlights;

- although TMLP does not advise you to use candles in an outage, if you do use them keep them away from children and any flammable materials. DO NOT fall asleep without extinguishing all candles;
- make sure you have a full tank of gas in the event that power is out for any length of time;
- make sure that all life sustaining equipment has a fully charged battery back-up system;
- if you or someone in your house has health issues, make arrangements to move to a safe environment before the storm arrives;
- make sure you have a manual can opener and canned food on hand;
- prepare a first aid kit with all necessary medications;
- make sure you fill all prescriptions and have enough medication to last for several days;
- remove all lawn furniture, plants, and other ornaments and decorations that could become a projectile in heavy winds;
- know how and where to turn off electricity and water if you need to;
- if the storm does make landfall in New England, unplug all electrical appliances if you need to evacuate;
- Keep the refrigerator door closed. A fully loaded refrigerator may keep food fresh for about six hours, and a fully loaded freezer may keep food frozen for up to two days;
- make sure your cell telephone is fully charged;
- have rain gear and protective clothing if you need to leave the home for any reason;

- keep cash on hand;
- have at least three gallons of water per person set aside as part of your disaster/emergency kit.

TMLP reminds its customers to call the TMLP outage hotline at 508-824-3111 to report a power outage and damage that may have occurred such as down wires, trees and poles. Do not assume that someone else has reported the outage in your neighborhood.

“If Taunton is impacted by Hurricane Earl, please be patient if there is an outage. TMLP crews will address all outages, beginning with any problems with the primary wires, and moving on to the secondary lines,” the General Manager concluded.

TMLP serves 36,000 customers in Taunton, Raynham, Berkley, North Dighton and sections in Lakeville and Bridgewater.

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