

January 16, 2009

City of Toronto update on response to power outage

The City of Toronto continues to respond to the power outage with work focussed on repairing equipment, restoring power and supporting residents. Staff from across the City have worked to help residents affected by the outage.

City of Toronto reception centres will remain open until power is restored.

Power has been returned to the TTC and full subway services has resumed.

Toronto Hydro confirms that power has now been restored to approximately 75 per cent of affected customers. Crews remain on scene replacing and repairing water damaged equipment. Unfortunately, an exact time of restoration is not available but it is estimated by Toronto Hydro that power will be back sometime tonight.

Customers who remain without power are encouraged to seek shelter with friends or family or at one of the City's reception centres. The City is working on a contingency plan should power not be restored tonight.

Please check the City's website (<http://www.toronto.ca/residents/power-outage-january09.htm>) for a map of the areas in which power has not yet been restored.

There has not been an increase in reported crimes. Police are still maintaining an increase in patrols in the affected areas. Police encourage motorists and pedestrians to be extra careful. No major emergencies have taken place as a result of the outage.

Please check on your friends and family. Building superintendents should check on any vulnerable residents in their buildings.

Reception centres are located at: (less than 100 residents have attended the reception centres)

Metro Hall, 55 John Street*

York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West*

JJ Piccininni Community Centre, 1369 St. Clair Avenue West*

Castelview Wychwood Long Term Care, 351 Christie Street*

Memorial Community Centre, 44 Montgomery Road*

Harrison Pool, 15 Stephanie Street*

Trinity Bellwoods Community Centre, 155 Crawford Street*

Queen's Park at Queen's Park Crescent and Charles Street West - open to 6 p.m.

* Pets are allowed in the reception centres marked with an asterisk.

Media will NOT be permitted into the reception centres.

If you are elderly or a person with disabilities and have lost your power and require transportation to a reception centre please call 416 392 9391 and the staff from our Long Term Care facility will assist you.

If you have an elderly or disabled friend or relative in the area please visit or call them to see if they require assistance. If you are not able to visit or contact them and would like someone from the City to follow up, please call Access Toronto at 416 338 0338. Access Toronto will arrange for a visit from staff from Toronto Transportation or Solid Waste Management who are working together to check on residents.

Water pipes - city residents should open a tap in their home at the lowest point in their home. Residents can also open a tap at the highest point in their home as well. Residents should not turn off the water to their homes. Water should be kept on to keep the pipes from freezing. Only a very small flow of water is necessary to keep the water moving.

Food will keep in the freezer for 24 to 48 hours if the freezer remains closed. Food in the fridge will keep for 12 to 24 hours if the fridge is kept closed. However, if in doubt, throw it out.

All Toronto Public Library branches are open today with the following exceptions:
Dufferin/St. Clair, High Park and Palmerston are closed due to the power outage.
St. Clair/Silverthorn, Perth/Dupont and Davenport branches have re-opened.
Sanderson is closed for state of good repair renovations.

Care should be taken with lit candles.

- Always stay in the room where candles are being used.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or when going to sleep.
- Ensure candles are not used in any bedrooms.
- Keep lit candles well away from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children and pets.
- Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip or burn. Those with glass shades or chimneys are safer.
- Extinguish candles when they burn to within five centimetres (two inches) of their holder.
- Make sure that you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home
- Plan and practise a home escape plan in the event of fire

Contact:

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