

January 16, 2009

Toronto Hydro reports power is being restored to remaining areas

Reception centres to stay open until midnight - 1 new centre open for residents needing overnight shelter

Toronto Hydro has announced that power is being restored to the remaining areas affected by the power outage.

To assist residents whose homes may be too cold to go to immediately the City will keep its 7 reception centres open until midnight to allow people to return to their homes safely.

In addition, the City of Toronto has opened a centre where residents can stay overnight if their homes are too cold to stay in tonight. The centre is located at: Parkdale Collegiate Institute, 209 Jameson Avenue.

Elderly or people with disabilities who require assistance may call 416-392-9391.

If going to a centre please bring any of your medications.

The City wishes to thank residents for their patience and cooperation during the outage. Staff from across the City today focused on the repairs required to restore power as quickly as possible and assist residents during the outage.

At a news conference tonight Toronto Mayor David Miller thanked Torontonians for their sense of community and the way in which residents helped one another during the outage. "I want to thank Torontonians for their cooperative efforts during this challenging time and all City staff for their quick response to the outage and the strong sense of caring for the people we serve," the Mayor stated.

There has not been an increase in reported crimes. Police are still maintaining an increase in patrols in the affected areas.

The 7 reception centres open until 12 midnight are:

Metro Hall, 55 John Street
York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West
JJ Piccininni Community Centre, 1369 St. Clair Avenue West
Castleview 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

Pets are allowed in the reception centres.

Media will NOT be permitted into the reception centres.

City of Toronto staff will continue working at the Operations Centre to monitor the return of residents and power to the area.

TIPS for when power comes back on.....

When power resumes, turn things on cautiously and gradually. First, wait five to 10 minutes. Then, turn on some lights and a desk-top computer. If they operate normally, turn on whatever is needed, but do it in stages to help prevent circuits from overloading before the power system stabilizes. This is important during the winter.

Do not expect everything to work when power resumes. Heating, ventilation, cooling, computer systems, and elevators may need to be manually reset. If it is time to close, assure that any exterior electronic locks are working before leaving.

“Block heaters for your car should be treated just as any other piece of electrical equipment around the home,” explains Fire Chief Bill Stewart. “Cords and connections should be in proper working condition and do not overload circuits.”

Fire safety tips when using heating appliances:

- * Do not use an unattended stove or oven for heating your home.
- * Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery, and clothing.
- * Keep intake and exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide build-up from inefficient combustion. Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.
- * Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- * Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- * Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- * Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- * Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.
- * Ensure there is a working smoke alarm on every storey of your home.

To thaw frozen pipes:

- Locate the suspected frozen area of the water pipe (commonly adjacent to exterior walls, or where your water service enters your home through the foundation).
- Leave a cold water tap downstream of that location open, so you know that the pipe has thawed when the water begins flowing again.

Apply heat to the suspected section of pipe with one of the following methods:

- Electric heating pad, wrapped around the pipe.
- Electric hair dryer.
- Portable heater (be sure combustible materials are at least one metre away from heater).
- Note: the use of any open flame in the home or any confined space is not recommended, due to the fire hazard and risk from combustion fumes.
- If you are unable to locate the frozen section of pipe, or are unsure of what to do, contact a licensed plumber.
- Check unused portions of your water system for freezing damage and leaks to avoid possible flooding damage from undetected ruptured pipes.

Toronto is Canada’s largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years, Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto’s government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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