



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Press Release

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Release: Immediate

Power Outage Updates & Winter Storm Safety Tips

12:30 p.m.

KEC crews are currently working on outages in the Harrison area, Hayden area and Cougar Gulch. Approximately 125 members are affected. Power is expected to be restored later this afternoon.

With winter storms in the forecast KEC would like to remind both our members and the general public of a few power outage and winter safety tips:

When the Power is Off

Check with nearby neighbors to see if they are also without power. If not, check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service box panel. If necessary, replace any fuses or reset the circuit breakers. Remember to check the primary cartridge fuses in the fuse box or main circuit breaker. If neighbors are also out of power, call Kootenai Electric at 1.877.744.1055 to report the outage. During major outages this line will also provide outage status updates.

During the Power Interruption

- Stay away from power lines on the ground. Always assume downed lines are energized even if the lines are sagging or broken.
- Do not attempt to remove trees or limbs from lines.
- Do not sit in an idling car in the garage to get warm. Never use a camp stove or charcoal grill indoors to generate heat.
- Unplug electronic equipment such as TVs, computers and microwaves.
- Lower the thermostat to a minimum.
- Turn off all appliances that were on when the power went out.
- Leave an outside light on so repair crews will know when power is back on.

- Have a battery-operated radio or TV. In the case of large outages, KEC notifies the media of the status of the outage.
- Have a cell phone or inexpensive, basic phone available to make and receive calls during an outage. Many of the latest phone models do not work without power.

Also, there may be times in North Idaho where a winter storm causes us to stay in or near our homes for several days. The following are suggestions that could make this time safer and less stressful:

- Keep a battery-powered radio and flashlight handy (with extra batteries). Plug in a corded phone in case you lose power (cordless phones don't work without power).
- Stock up on a few days' supply of non-perishable food and water (food not requiring cooking). Don't forget to have food and water available for your pets.
- Sleeping bags, winter clothing, and extra blankets should be kept close at hand in case of power loss.
- Have a well-stocked first-aid kit available.
- When using a fireplace, make sure you use a sturdy screen and burn only clean wood to reduce the amount of creosote buildup. Make sure your furnace, fireplace and/or wood stove is serviced each year for proper operation.

At KEC, we're doing all we can to prevent power outages. But on those occasions when they do occur, our outage number, 1.877.744.1055, helps us resolve the problem quickly and efficiently.