



## Public Utilities Commission

### In anticipation of severe weather the PUCO reminds Ohioans to exercise caution during power outages

COLUMBUS, OHIO (June 12, 2013) – The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is reminding Ohioans to exercise caution during power outages. Downed electric lines, equipment and vegetation can potentially be hazardous and should be avoided.

Do not attempt to touch or move downed electrical lines and equipment. Downed lines pose a serious hazard to anyone who comes in contact with them and can be deadly. Immediately report downed lines to emergency responders and your local utility. Do not attempt to move fallen debris in the vicinity of a downed power line and keep at a safe distance at all times.

Additional safety tips during a power outage include:

- If using a generator, be sure it is properly ventilated to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not attempt to use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Unplug electrical devices in case of a power surge. Leave one lamp on so you know when power has been restored.
- If possible, use only battery-powered light sources for emergency lighting instead of candles. Matches, lighters and candles are fire hazards.
- Check on your neighbors, friends and family to ensure they are okay.

Call an electrician if you have standing water near electrical wiring or appliances. Do not enter the flooded area.

For additional safety tips during electrical power outages, visit the Ohio Emergency Management Association's website at [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov).

To review the PUCO's guide to being prepared for power outages, please visit the PUCO website at [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov).

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*The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the sole agency charged with regulating public utility service. The role of the PUCO is to assure all residential, business, and industrial consumers have access to adequate, safe, and reliable utility services at fair prices while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. Consumers with utility-related questions or concerns can call the PUCO Call Center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826) and speak with a representative.*

*For additional information, contact: Jason Gilham | (614) 466-7750*