

Winter storms present special risks – be prepared

These tips from CVPS are part of a year-long series to educate Vermonters about electrical safety and hazards.

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While CVPS is renowned for its storm recovery efforts, winning national awards for storm management following two of the worst storms in our history, in 2007 and 2008, customer safety is always on our minds. With winter almost here, storm safety is particularly important, so we offer the following tips for safely coping if winter outages occur:

- Treat any downed line as if it is live. Report the line to CVPS and your local fire department, stay at least 30 feet away from the line, and keep children, livestock and pets away. Never attempt to help out by coiling up wire or clearing downed trees in the vicinity of a power line. The result could be deadly.
- If using a generator, read and follow the owner's

manual before starting it. Never operate a generator inside or near any structure. Use a transfer switch to ensure electricity is not accidentally fed onto a line where line crews must work.

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed as much as possible to prevent food spoilage.
- Turn off all electrical appliances except one light so you'll know when service returns. Then, turn equipment back on slowly.
- Use flashlights instead of candles for light.
- Check on elderly or infirm neighbors to see if they need any assistance.

For more safety tips, visit www.cvps.com/safety, and be sure to check out our newsletter, *Keeping Current*, which comes with your bill each month, for more from CVPS.



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