

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ComEd Preparing for Possible Winter Storm**

**CHICAGO (Dec. 18, 2008)** – With a severe winter storm forecast for northern Illinois, ComEd is taking measures to safeguard its electric distribution system, including:

- Opening the company's emergency operations center and regional offices;
- Postponing scheduled work that would require equipment to be out of service;
- Scheduling extra work crews, where appropriate, to handle any problems that may occur; and,
- Placing work crews in the field to monitor the system and respond quickly to any potential problems.

The storm is expected to enter the area later tonight, and is projected to result in ice accumulations up to three-quarters of an inch in some areas. ComEd has adjusted its staffing to mobilize additional crews quickly in the event the storm produces a significant number of power outages. Call center employees, field personnel, tree-trimmers, and power line patrollers have all been put on alert.

Ice buildup, gusty winds, and fallen tree limbs may cause power lines to fall, creating a hazardous situation. ComEd warns customers to keep in mind that downed power lines may be live and dangerous. Customers should stay away from them and report the location of downed lines to the company immediately.

ComEd urges anyone who experiences problems with electric service to call the utility immediately at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661) to report the outage. It is important that customers do not assume ComEd is already aware of their outage. Customers are encouraged to use the voice-automated system to report outages so ComEd can provide periodic updates, in many cases, through an automated callback system.

ComEd has several suggestions to prepare for inclement weather and the potential for power outages:

- In the event of a lengthy winter outage, maintaining warmth is a priority. Customers should stay inside and dress with layered clothing. If using an alternate heat source, customers should follow the operating instructions and make sure there is proper ventilation.
- If possible, customers should keep these items on hand and easily accessible in the event of prolonged outages:
  - Flashlights and fresh batteries
  - Blankets
  - A battery-powered radio
  - A battery-powered or wind-up clock
  - A three-day supply of bottled water equal to one gallon of water per day per person
  - Canned and high-energy foods like dried fruit or candy
  - A fully charged cellular phone
  - Emergency telephone numbers

Public safety is paramount. Customers are reminded:

- Anyone seeing a downed power line is urged to immediately call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661) and report the location. Spanish-speaking customers should call 1-800-95-LUCES (1-800-955-8237).
- Never approach a downed power line. Always presume a power line is energized and extremely dangerous.
- Check on elderly and other sensitive family members and neighbors to ensure their safety and make alternate arrangements, as it may be some time before their power is restored.

ComEd also offers the following suggestions for customers experiencing a prolonged outage:

- Never operate a portable generator in the basement or garage. The carbon monoxide produced by the engine is deadly.
- Turn off all appliances including your furnace, water heater, and water pump.
- Leave a lamp on so you can know when power has been restored.
- Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed and open them only when necessary. Food will stay frozen for 36 to 48 hours in a fully loaded freezer, if the door remains closed. A half-full freezer will generally keep food frozen for 24 hours.
- Customers who are on medical support equipment are strongly encouraged to evacuate to a place where they can be comfortable and safe.

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*Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), one of the nation's largest electric utilities with approximately 5.4 million customers. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.8 million customers across Northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.*