

Municipal Power News



Town of Kingsford Heights

Volume 28, Issue 3 | Fall 2023



Are You Ready if the Power Goes Out?

As your municipally-owned electric utility, Kingsford Heights' electric department performs routine maintenance and electric system upgrades to keep the town's reliability as consistent as possible. However, unforeseen circumstances can always occur and cause power interruptions, especially as winter can bring unpredictable weather conditions. Your local utility wants to make sure that you and your family are prepared for those unpredictable situations when the power goes out.

One thing your utility highly recommends is creating a power outage kit—a collection of supplies that can help you through a prolonged outage. See how many items you have on the power outage kit checklist:

- Water—one gallon per person (or animal!) in your household is recommended
- Flashlights or battery-operated lanterns and appropriate batteries
- A first aid kit
- Non-perishable food items
- A cooler, in case you need to move food from your refrigerator to keep it safe
- A weather radio
- Portable phone chargers

-continued on page 4

Inside this Issue

Page 2

Holiday Safety with IMPA!

Learn how you can have a safe holiday season with your friends and family.

Page 4

Tidbits and Trivia

Respond to the question featured on this page for a chance to win a prize!

Page 7

Saving Energy in Cold Weather

Read the various ways that readers of this newsletter save energy in the cold.

Holiday Safety with IMPA!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and preparing for this hectic time of year can help things go over a bit more smoothly. Safety precautions are always important but can often be forgotten in the midst of holiday chaos. Use this time to remind yourself and your loved ones about the following safety tips that will help everyone enjoy the time to come.

Decorative Lights

- Check all electrical wiring before you install decorations, and throw away any damaged wiring.
- Using miniature lights or LED lights on a Christmas tree can produce less heat, decreasing the chances of mishap.
- All lights should be labeled as approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as the Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Always unplug any lights before leaving your home.



Candles

- Imitation electric candles are always safer than traditional candles that burn with fire.
- Keep all candles away from window dressings, furniture, and greenery.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Cooking

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Keep handles on pots turned in, so they won't be bumped or in reach of small children.
- Extinguish a cooking fire by putting a lid, or even a plate, on the pot or pan. If a fire breaks out in the oven, keep the door shut and turn off the appliance.

Toys

- When buying electrical toys, purchase only those approved by the UL, and those that meet fire and shock hazard standards.
- Make sure toys that are given as gifts are always suitable to the receiver's age.



How Does Public Power Work?

The transmission lines stretching across the country carry electricity to households and businesses nationwide. However, some of the electricity travels to customers served by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or rural electric cooperatives (REMCs), while other households like yours are served by a public power utility. Your community, as a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), buys its electricity from the Agency before selling it to you and bringing it to your door. The electricity that your community purchases is called wholesale power—it is supplied to your local public power utility for resale to retail customers of the utility. By purchasing wholesale power in bulk, the member utilities of IMPA are able to provide electricity with the economic advantages than if they were to individually generate the power themselves or purchase it elsewhere. Your community takes advantage of this benefit, since all 61 member communities of IMPA work together to purchase power in bulk through the Agency.

Member utilities of IMPA have contracts with the Agency to ensure that all the electric needs of the community are met. IMPA, by either generating power at a

generation facility or purchasing it from other utilities, places the power on the electric grid through transmission lines.

The high voltage electricity travels across the grid on these transmission lines to your community. Before the electricity gets to your residence, a substation transformer is used to lower the voltage of the electricity to make it safer to travel across shorter distances than the transmission lines cover. This lower voltage also makes it safer for the electricity to be in closer proximity to traffic and people. Once electricity goes through the transformer in the substation, it moves through distribution lines in your local community to a transformer at homes and businesses. It then arrives at your home and allows you to turn on the lights, heat your home, and watch tv.

Public power utilities are not just there to provide power – they work for the betterment of the community, too. These utilities are embedded in the fabric of their communities—boosting community investment, supporting local education, and getting involved with beautification and charitable programs. As a result, public power customers benefit from affordable energy, better service, local control, and a utility that cares about the overall well-being and growth of your community. •



At IMPA Board Meetings, a representative from your community helps guide the direction and decisions of the Agency.

Tidbits & Trivia

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency** (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. IMPA provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

What are some of the benefits of public power?



Send your answer to newsletter@impa.com, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



Are You Ready if the Power Goes Out?

-continued from page 1

Having an emergency preparedness kit with these items makes dealing with an outage much easier. In the event of an outage, the first thing you should do is gather everyone in the home to ensure everyone is safe, then distribute lights and equipment that may be needed from the kit. Next, let the town know that you are experiencing a power outage by calling their office at (219) 393-3396.

Once the utility is aware of your situation, it's advisable to unplug all of your electronic devices from outlets to prevent potential damage from a power surge once electricity is restored. An unopened refrigerator can stay cold for up to four hours, but if an outage goes beyond this limit, be sure to store perishable food items in your cooler. If you have a generator



Stay Safe When Making Payments Online

Kingsford Heights' utility provides online payments as a convenient solution to managing monthly expenses; however, town officials want to ensure that customers are doing so safely.

Some third-party online bill payment services, such as Doxo.com, lure bill payers into using their services to pay local utility bills. However, these websites are not affiliated with Kingsford Heights utilities, and local utility personnel encourage everyone to avoid visiting payment websites hosted by any

-continued on page 8

for backup power, always run it outdoors and away from windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

While the staff and leaders of Kingsford Heights take every step necessary to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, the utility's personnel want to make sure you and your loved ones remain safe too. Please follow this guide when you experience an outage so that we can all ensure our community is as safe as possible. •



What's the Word?

Investigating Power Terminology

Distribution Lines

Utilities use distribution lines to transport electricity from the larger transmission system to individual customer homes and businesses. While transmission lines carry electricity across long distances at a high

voltage, distribution lines carry electricity over shorter distances at a lower voltage. You may see transmission lines while driving on a highway, but the utility lines you see on the streets of your community are distribution lines.

Distribution lines bring electricity to its final stage of delivery. As a member of a public power utility, your town or city owns and operates the distribution lines in your community.

Cooking Corner

Eggnog Bread

Recipe submitted by Susan of Richmond, Indiana

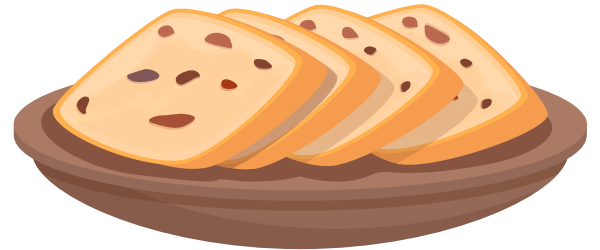
For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup skim milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups eggnog
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp grated orange zest
- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk wet ingredients together with orange zest in a bowl. In another bowl, combine all dry ingredients except for cranberries and macadamia nuts. Add the liquid mixture to the dry mixture, carefully stirring until the flour is moistened. Fold in cranberries and nuts. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans and pour in batter. Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes, then remove wire racks to cool completely. Slice and serve with orange marmalade. Or, to serve without a spread, use the glaze below.

In a small bowl, mix:
- 1 tbsp eggnog
- $\frac{3}{8}$ cup confectioner's sugar



Drizzle mixture over the cooled loaves

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

Editor: Niki Dick
Senior Director of Marketing Communications

Correspondent:
Whitney Hicks
Communications Coordinator

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How Do I Save Energy in Cold Weather?

Last year, we asked readers of the *Municipal Power News* some of the methods they use to reduce energy consumption in cold weather. Here is what some of you said!

“I have reduced my energy consumption due to my purchase of long cloth door tubes that resemble snakes. They are the draft prevention cloth tubes approximately 36” x 3 1/2” filled with beans or double tubes with center strips. They can be placed in the home at the bottom of outside doors or where drafts enter under doors inside a home. The double tube style can slide under

the storm door outside the house door---one tube outside the storm door and the other tube set between the storm door and the inside house door. These can also be used on doors in cold rooms with closed doors to stop drafts. This is really great in blocking cold air at the floor level that cause cold feet and drafts.”

- Jean

“I often use an infrared/radiant space heater that is thermostat-controlled. During the day I close off unused rooms so my living room/kitchenette is comfortably warm. The glow of the radiant heater is pleasing like a fireplace. You definitely need to wear insulated slippers or plush socks indoors in

addition to layered clothing. Wearing indoor weather-appropriate clothing, I can keep my heater set on a lower temperature—generally less than 65 degrees. My furnace, in comparison, needs to be set at 70+ degrees to maintain satisfactory room warmth.”

- Penny

“During the cold weather months, the most effective method for reducing my energy consumption is by closing off rooms that do not necessarily have to be heated all day. I also put plastic on any drafty windows and use draft stoppers for my doors. I’ve replaced

most of my home’s light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs and I change my furnace filter often. Room darkening curtains help keep the heat in and as the famous saying goes, I never let the water run!”

- Tiffany

“The method that I use most is to wear warmer clothes in the house. I know that there are people who want to sit around the house in shorts and t-shirts, and run around the house in bare feet, all the while having

their thermostat turned way up. That makes no sense to me. Today, for instance, it’s 14° outside. The thermostat is set at 68° inside. I’m wearing a flannel shirt with a puffy vest, long pants, and shoes.”

- Bruce

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The *Municipal Power News* is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Town of Kingsford Heights.

IMPA Commissioner: Kari Moss

Making Payments Online

-continued from page 5

third-party entities, including Doxo. Though these companies use Kingsford Heights' name, they are not an authorized payment service for the town's utilities.

The only true, verified way to pay your bill online is through www.paygov.us. The home page on the PayGov website displays a secure link to making online payments, entitled "Make a Payment." Following the steps presented after clicking this link will ensure that your utility payments are kept confidential and reach the Kingsford Heights utility office in a timely manner.

Stay safe online and remain vigilant about sharing your personal information! •

