

**Press information from:
WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT
DEPARTMENT**

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(Wakefield, MA) – All eyes are on Hurricane Earl and Tropical Storm Fiona, both of which are moving up the coast. As forecasters keep a watchful eye on these storms, the Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD) is gearing up for any potential effects of the storms coming close to the region.

“WMGLD crews will be on call and ready to go in the event there are power outages from any high winds and heavy rains,” WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion said. “We are watching everything closely as the storms move up the coast and are in contact with Massachusetts and local emergency management personnel.”

“With the storms a few days out, it is a good time for our customers to review their preparations in the event that a major storm impacts the area and causes outages,” he added.

WMGLD recommends that customers always do the following when severe weather threatens:

- keep an eye, and ear, to the news for updates on storm tracks and timing;
- know where the flashlights are and keep them handy;
- make sure there are fresh batteries in the house for radios and flashlights;
- as a last resort, if you use candles in an outage, keep them away from children and any flammable materials. Don't fall asleep without extinguishing all candles;

- keep all cars with a full tank of gas in the event that the power is out for any length of time; also be sure you have a safely stored supply of gas for any emergency generator equipment you may own;
- make sure that all life sustaining equipment has a fully charged battery back-up system, and that you have notified the WMGLD that you have this equipment in your home;
- prepare a first aid kit with all necessary medications. Make sure that your prescriptions are filled and you have enough medication to last several days;
- bring in all lawn furniture, plants, and other decorations – they could become projectiles in heavy winds;
- know how and where to turn off electricity and water if you need to;
- turn off the lights and electrical appliances, except for the refrigerator and freezer.
- keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed if the power goes out
- throw out any food in the refrigerator or freezer that reaches a temperature above 41° F. If you aren't sure of its freshness, throw it out;
- keep one single lamp on so that you'll know when the power is restored
- if the storm does make landfall in New England, unplug all electrical appliances if you need to evacuate;
- make sure you have a manual can opener and an ample supply of nonperishable food in the house;
- remember that most cordless home phones won't work if the power is out. If you can, buy a corded phone for your house;

- make sure your cell telephone is fully charged;
- have rain gear and protective clothing if you need to leave the home for any reason;
- keep cash on hand in case power is out to ATMs and you need to buy emergency supplies;
- have at least three gallons of water per person set aside as part of your disaster/emergency kit.

The WMGLD reminds its customers to telephone the WMGLD at (781) 246-6363 to report a power outage. Do not assume that someone else has reported the outage in your neighborhood.

“If Wakefield is impacted by Hurricane Earl, or Fiona, please remember that WMGLD crews will be on hand to restore power as quickly and safely as possible”
General Manager Dion concluded.