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Power Outage Information

Fact Sheet

For Immediate Release - August 17, 2003

Power Recovery in Ontario

The provincial state of emergency continues. It is not business as usual in Ontario.

Over the next few days until power is fully restored, we all need to conserve energy to avoid overloading the system and causing a power outage. Tremendous effort by all Ontarians made it possible to avoid rotating blackouts yesterday. There is more work to be done together, as water and energy conservation measures by residential and business consumers need to continue.

Our Power Recovery Strategy

- For this week, the provincial government will continue to operate with essential services only, to assist with conservation efforts. Federal and municipal governments are requested to do the same. This approach will be re-evaluated on a 24-hour basis.
- Industrial, commercial and retail businesses have been asked to reduce consumption by operating at 50% of their normal usage. Based on such usage, businesses will need to determine their staffing requirements.
- Businesses are also being asked to conserve energy, including avoiding using air conditioning, billboards and lights at night.
- Water and energy conservation measures need to continue.

Conserve Electricity:

While peak hours are from 8am to 8pm, please conserve energy throughout each day and night.

At home:

- Keep the air conditioner off or use it sparingly. Even better, spend time outside and open the windows.
- Turn off the lights in any room not in use.
- Shut off all non-essential appliances except the refrigerator.
- Postpone using dishwashers and washing machines for as long as possible; hang clothes to dry.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers - many electronic devices use electricity even when switched "off".

- Use energy efficient lightbulbs.
- Allow food to cool before putting leftovers in the refrigerator.
- Avoid frequent or prolonged openings of the refrigerator and freezer.
- Use your microwave instead of your oven for cooking whenever possible.
- Eat cool - consider salads, sandwiches and other cold foods.
- Fill plastic containers to three quarters with water and freeze them. If your power goes out, move the frozen water containers to the refrigerator to help keep the refrigerator cool.
- For electrical hot water heaters turn the breaker "off" during peak hours. The water will stay hot for several hours in the tank.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Turn off your pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep.

If you are elderly or in poor health:

- Set your home thermostat and air conditioners to 25 degrees Celsius or higher.
- Be patient. Setting your thermostat to 23 degrees won't cool a house any faster than setting it to 25 degrees Celsius.

At the Office:

- Avoid large photocopying jobs
- Close doors to the outside to keep in cooler air.
- Turn off lights when offices are not in use and turn off any signage and systems not necessary for operations, security and safety.
- On hot days, draw the curtains and/or shades to keep the sun out.
- Turn off office equipment or set it to "power down" when not in use.
- Set office thermostats to 25 degrees Celsius or higher.
- Check to ensure doors to coolers and freezers remain closed.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Shut off all "frills" such as outside advertising billboards and signage, decorative fountains, pools and waterfalls.

Conserve Water:

- Take showers, not baths; they use less water.
- Postpone using dishwashers and laundry appliances.
- Don't water the lawn.
- Don't wash the car.

Conserve Gasoline:

- Don't drive unless you have to.
- Consider carpooling.

In your Community:

- Check on elderly or ill neighbours to make sure they're all right.

General Inquiry Line on the Power Outage:

Ontarians who have general questions about the current power outage should call the provincial hotline at 1-800-268-1154. This service is currently available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telehealth Ontario - Health Information by Registered Nurses:

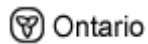
Ontarians who need health advice or general health information from a registered nurse should call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Technical Support for Farmers and Food Processors:

Ministry of Agriculture & Food staff can be reached by calling (519) 846-0941 to provide advice and technical assistance to farmers and food processors.

Contact:
Information Group
Emergency Management Ontario
Ministry of Public Safety and Security
(416) 314-8609

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