

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 16, 2021

Nacogdoches Winter Weather Updates

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS -- As Nacogdoches residents continue to face record-low temperatures brought on by winter weather storms, the following information is made available. A FAQ powerpoint can be found at <https://www.nactx.us/DocumentCenter/View/5219/FAQ-Slides> with the following information as well.

Electric Supply

Oncor and Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative (DETEC) report power outages throughout Nacogdoches county due to two major issues: (1) extreme loads on the power systems on account of the winter storms and (2) controlled "blackouts" mandated by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the governing body overseeing much of the electric grid in Texas. Below-freezing temperatures have created record-breaking demands for power, and in turn, an electric generation shortfall. Additionally, ERCOT has directed distributors, including Oncor and DETEC, to drop power loads through controlled outages known as blackouts. Neither entity can project when the mandated blackouts will occur for each consumer nor how long they will last.

Citizens should conserve electricity by:

- Reducing heaters to 68 degrees
- Turning off or unplugging nonessential appliances
- Avoiding the use of large appliances, such as washer, dryers and dishwashers
- Minimizing the use of electric lights
- Closing shades or blinds to better insulate windows

Water Supply

Rolling blackouts damaged the City of Nacogdoches lake water treatment plant on Monday evening, requiring the system to be diverted to a backup source. Water pressure throughout much of Nacogdoches may be critically low. Similarly, many of the rural systems interconnect with the city's system and may also experience reduced pressure or outages. Repairs could take as long as three days, throughout which consumers should be prepared to conserve water use.

Shelters

Warming shelters are available through Godtel and city and county facilities as needed. Space is extremely limited due to COVID restrictions, and citizens are encouraged to seek shelter with friends and family if possible. Those requiring shelter should call 936-559-2510. Transportation to the shelters is available if requested.

Roads and Businesses

Few grocery stores, gas stations or other businesses are open due to power outages. Additionally, road conditions have worsened as snow turns into compacted ice, making it near impossible for drivers to safely maneuver roadways. Citizens should stay home with the exception of emergency situations.



A call center is available 24 hours a day at 936-559-2510 for any questions or concerns related to the winter storms.