

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 17, 2021

Evening Update - Wednesday, February 17, 2021

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS -- Nacogdoches residents continue to face extreme challenges brought on by the winter storms affecting much of the state of Texas. The City of Nacogdoches and Nacogdoches County Emergency Management teams are working around the clock to restore city services.

Electric Supply

Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative (DETEC) and Oncor recognize many customers continue to experience extended electrical outages. A majority of these are now primarily due to ice accumulation causing downed power lines. Likewise, the continued lack of available power generation requires some members in Nacogdoches County within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) boundaries to experience mandated rolling blackouts approximately every other hour. The length of these blackouts and subsequent restoration may vary. Complete power restoration may take several weeks.

If you are dependent upon electricity for medical needs, seek an alternate location. Call 911 for medical emergencies; do not wait it out for the power to be restored.

Residents with electricity should continue to conserve power 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
- Opening shades during the day to take advantage of the sun's natural heat
- Closing shades at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows

Water Supply

Nacogdoches residents will continue to experience little to no water pressure in their area due to damage at the Surface Water Plant. For those who do have water, **the City of Nacogdoches has issued a boil water notice at 3 pm on February 17. This notice applies to all of the Nacogdoches Water Supply area and entities using City water. This could continue for several more days.** State regulation mandates water supply companies notify consumers of the need to boil water when water pressure drops below standards. To ensure that potential bacteria and other microbes are adequately destroyed, water for drinking, cooking, and ice making should be boiled and cooled prior to human consumption. Bring water to a vigorous rolling boil, then boil for two minutes. In lieu of boiling, individuals may rely on bottled water for consumption. Children, seniors, and persons with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable to harmful bacteria, and all customers should follow these directions.



Public water system officials will notify customers when water is safe for consumption and boiling is no longer necessary. Officials will also issue a notice to customers that rescinds the boil water notice in a manner similar to this notice.

If a water leak is found in any area, residential or commercial, turn off the water outside at the meter. If assistance is needed in doing this, please contact 936-559-2900.

*water can be boiled on a fire or any other heat source. If you can find something hot enough to cook with, this can be used to boil water if you are experiencing power outages.

Shelters

Shelters are available through Godtel and city and county facilities. Space is 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 and water supply issues. Road conditions have worsened as melting snow and ice have turned to slush and flooding. Fallen trees or limbs and downed power lines are also creating hazards, making it near impossible for drivers to safely maneuver roadways. There is still a chance of additional freezing rain and freezing temperatures throughout the night. Use caution when driving.

A call center is available 24 hours a day at 936-559-2510 for any water, shelter and City services questions. Staff may not be able to give information on store closures, weather questions or power restoration.