

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 18, 2021

Evening Update - Thursday, February 18, 2021

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS -- Nacogdoches city and county staff will continue to release winter weather updates in the coming days. Realizing many in our community are without power and cannot receive these notifications electronically or through typical media outlets, we ask those who have access to them share vital information with family, friends, and neighbors.

Weather

The National Weather Service predicts no additional snow or ice but a slight chance for freezing drizzle in our area. Conditions remain hazardous with highs only in the thirties and more record lows tonight as skies clear out. The weather will begin to warm up through the weekend with sunshine and southerly winds, allowing for this snow and ice pack to begin melting quickly.

Electric Supply

As of this morning, 8,821 Deep East Texas Electric Co-op (DETEC) meters and 5,800 Oncor meters in Nacogdoches county were without service. Neighboring co-ops have offered assistance in restoring power, however it could take several weeks to see full restoration in all rural areas.

If you notice tree limbs hanging on power lines or downed power lines, please report these immediately to dispatch at (936) 559-2607. Additionally, customers can report power outages to their applicable electric company:

- Deep East Texas Electric: 800-392-5986
- Oncor: 888-313-4747, online at <https://stormcenter.oncor.com>, text OUT to 66267, or through the MyOncor Mobile App

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

Water Supply

Electrical power has been restored at the City of Nacogdoches surface water plant, and formerly depleted tanks are being filled. However, the process to distribute water to individual consumers within normal parameters will take time. Citizens should plan for reduced water supply or pressure through Monday, Feb 22. Likewise several water supply corporations (WSC) in the county are battling power generation issues and have been unable to meet the demand for water. Emergency management staff are partnering with these organizations and DETEC for priority power restoration to bring critical equipment back online.

As water is restored, particular attention should be paid to possible water leaks. If you experience a leak, turn off the water at the meter. If you are unable to turn it off yourself, contact 936-559-2900 for assistance. It is critical that leaks are identified and reported quickly to prevent a subsequent loss in pressure.

A boil water notice remains in effect for those using City of Nacogdoches water and several county WSC. Contact your particular WSC if you are unsure of your boil water status. 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. 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 the initial notice.

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, family and neighbors if possible. Those requiring shelter should call 936-559-2510. Transportation to the shelters is available if requested.

Roads and Businesses

Road conditions worsened Thursday morning as leftover rain and melted snow have turned to ice. Fallen trees, limbs, and downed power lines are also creating hazards, making it near impossible for drivers to safely maneuver roadways. Use caution when driving. There is still a chance of additional freezing temperatures throughout Saturday morning. Few grocery stores, gas stations or other businesses are open due to power outages and water supply issues.

Stranded Vehicles:

If you found yourself stranded on the road and received a ride home from local police or others, please retrieve your vehicle at this time if you can safely do so. Starting Friday evening, patrol officers may begin to remove cars from the roadway. If your vehicle is a hazard it may be moved earlier than this.

Communication

A call center is available 24 hours a day at 936-559-2510 for any shelter and City services questions. Staff may not be able to give information on store closures, weather questions or power restoration. Contact 936-559-2900 for questions regarding water and water leaks. To report tree limbs on the power lines or downed power lines, call 936-559-2607.

Trash

Trash services for the city will resume on Monday, Feb 22. If you have immediate trash disposal needs, two rolloff dumpsters are available at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center (1112 North Street). Use these as a resource until normal trash services resume next week.

City of Nacogdoches residents are strongly encouraged to sign up for NacWise alerts by visiting nactx.us/nacwise.