



MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Accredited Local Public Health Department

www.mmdhd.org

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March 9, 2017

To: Food Establishments

PRECAUTIONS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS DURING INTERRUPTION OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Dear Food Establishment Operator:

As you know, high winds on March 8, 2017 have led to moderate power outages in our area, affecting residents, businesses, and restaurants.

Food establishment operators should follow the instructions in the **Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments guide** available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture website at: www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares. Instructions are available in English, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese.

Food establishments without power and water are ordered to cease operation unless they have emergency measures in place to provide power and a safe water source. Please consult the “Interruption of Water Service” section of the **Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments guide** for additional information.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department food safety inspectors are monitoring efforts of impacted food establishment operators to ensure the safety of food sold. Utility companies are working to restore power as quickly as possible, but it is estimated that some may be without power for several days.

Food establishments without power are encouraged to remain open to provide the public with non-perishable items as long as the following can be maintained:

- Power can be maintained through use of generator **OR** limit operation to daylight hours, unless lighting can be maintained using generator or battery-powered devices.
- Discontinue all cooking and
 - Discard foods of animal origin that were in cooking process, but did not reach a safe final temperature.
 - Maintain hot foods at 140°F using canned heat, if possible.
 - Discard hot food that has been held below 140°F for more than 4 hours.
- Sell only non-perishable foods, once hot food supply is gone.
- Keep refrigeration unit doors closed. Pack perishable food with commercially-made ice or dry ice. Note time power was lost and initial temperature of refrigeration units.
- Use single-service articles, if possible. Manual dishwashing may be done using any remaining hot water.

*Your Public Health Team,
Connecting with our Communities to Achieve Healthier Outcomes.*

Establishments should discontinue operations once inventories of clean equipment, utensils, and tableware are exhausted. Establishments should also discontinue operations when cleanliness of the physical facility jeopardizes food safety.

Please share this notice with other people who may be affected by distributing this notice or posting in a public place.

For more information, please contact Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Environmental Health Division:

Clinton County (989) 224-2195, Option 4	Gratiot County (989) 875-3681, Option 4	Montcalm County (989) 831-5237, Option 4
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**PRECAUTIONS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO REESTABLISH SERVICE
WHEN ELECTRICAL POWER RESTORED**

Please follow these instructions when power has been restored:

Before reopening, food establishment operators must follow the recovery instructions in the **Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments guide** available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture website at www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares. Instructions are available in English, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese.

Basic recovery includes discarding potentially-hazardous food exceeding the following time and temperature ranges:

- 42°F or higher for 5 or more hours
- 46°F or higher for 4 or more hours
- 50°F or higher for 2 or more hours

Food establishment operators should cool remaining refrigerated food to below 41°F within 1 hour and ensure all equipment is working properly. Refrigeration equipment should return to 41°F or below.

Frozen foods that remain solid or semi-solid can be refrozen if food packages show no evidence of thawing, such as stains or container damage.

Food establishment operators must also clean and sanitize surfaces and equipment, including ice bins.

Discarded food should be labeled as “poisonous.”

For more information, please contact Mid-Michigan District Health Department’s Environmental Health Division at:

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