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CON EDISON PREPARES FOR HEAVY RAIN & STRONG WINDS

NEW YORK – With a forecast for intense thunderstorms tonight, Con Edison is urging customers to take safety precautions. The company has crews mobilized to respond to any power outages that might occur.

Falling trees and broken limbs from strong winds can knock down power lines and often result in extensive damage to overhead power systems.

Con Edison is urging any customer who loses power to notify the company by calling 1-800-75-CONED. Customers with Internet access can also report outages online by going to www.conEd.com. They also can check on estimated service restoration times. Customers should not assume the company is aware that they are without service.

Con Edison will have additional employees available to assess any damage, skilled mechanics expert at making repairs to overhead equipment, and extra safety personnel available. Should outages occur, employees will work around the clock until all customers have their power restored.

The company is in contact the New York City Office of Emergency Management and Westchester County Department of Emergency Services and is keeping them up to date on all efforts.

Here are some tips to prepare for a storm:

- Stay indoors. If you must go outside, stay away from downed and dangling lines. Treat all downed lines as if they are live and dangerous. Never attempt to move or touch them with any object. Be mindful that downed wires can be hidden from view by tree limbs, leaves or water.
- Report all downed wires to Con Edison and your local police department immediately. If a power line falls on your car while you're in it, stay inside the vehicle and wait for emergency personnel.
- Have a lights-out kit that is well stocked and handy, with a battery-operated radio or TV, several flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries.

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- In the event of a power outage, customers should protect their major appliances and any electronically-sensitive equipment, such as computers, by switching them to the “off” position. Leave one light on so that you know when power is restored.
- Avoid opening your freezer to see if food is still frozen. Every time you open the door, room-temperature air enters and speeds the thawing process. Most fully loaded freezers will keep food frozen for approximately 36 to 48 hours; half-full freezers will keep food frozen for approximately 24 hours.

For more storm tips and preparation, and estimated restoration times, go to the company’s Storm Central site at www.ConEd.com/storm.

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