

Home Heating—Keep it Safe



PEPCO HAS SPEAKERS FOR YOUR EVENTS!

Pepco is pleased to have employee representatives available to speak to community groups and organizations.

It's all part of our ongoing efforts to be actively involved in the communities we serve. Employees can speak to a broad range of electricity issues, including but not limited to:

- Customer Choice (utility deregulation),
- Our Power Restoration Process,
- How to Prepare for Outages,
- Energy Conservation/How to Lower Your Bill, and
- "Electricity 101" (how electricity reaches your home).

To learn more about our Speakers Bureau, visit www.pepco.com. Or call (202) 872-2089 to arrange for a speaker.



Winter is here, and when it comes to heating our homes it's important to pay close attention to safety. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Keep heating equipment well tuned with a periodic maintenance check by a professional service representative.
- Maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in proper working order and have fresh batteries on hand.
- Make sure fireplaces and wood stoves are well vented, and never leave home until the fire is totally extinguished.
- Never use a barbecue grill or other outdoor cooking device to heat your home. These devices give off deadly fumes.

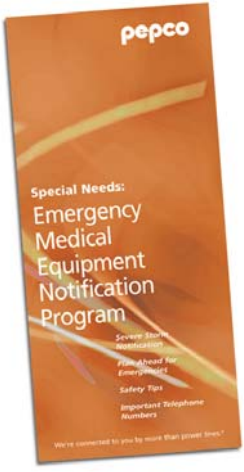
Space Heaters—Use Caution

Use particular caution with portable space heaters — whether electric or fuel burning. They pose fire hazards and fuel-burning models can also give off deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says that more than 25,000 residential fires are associated each year with using portable space heaters. Also, many people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning. If you use a portable space heater, follow these safety guidelines:

- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element or flame.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater operating.
- Make sure the heater is placed on a level, hard nonflammable surface, and keep it at least 4 feet away from curtains or other flammable material.
- Do not place cords under rugs or carpets.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

For more information about the proper use of portable space heaters, visit the CPSC's Web site at: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/463.html.



Important Information for Customers on Life-Support Equipment

Despite Pepco's best efforts to provide reliable electric service, extended outages can occasionally happen thanks to harsh winter weather and hurricanes. If you're on life-support equipment, such as a respirator or dialysis machine, here are some tips on how to be prepared.

Have a backup plan and make arrangements now for longer-term outages. You may want to ask a relative or friend who has power if you can stay with them.

Consider whether a portable generator is right for your situation. If you purchase a generator, install it correctly and follow all safety directions.

Sign up for Pepco's Emergency Medical Equipment Notification Program. This service provides automatic advance notice of scheduled outages for maintenance as well as warnings of approaching large storms such as hurricanes. The program, however, does not offer priority restoration following outages. Customers must have their physician certify that a medical need exists.

To enroll or to obtain a free brochure, call 202-833-7500. Or visit www.pepco.com to download the brochure.

TAX CREDITS AND TAX PREPARATION HELP AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

Low- and moderate-income families may be eligible to claim two substantial tax credits on their 2005 federal and state returns – the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit. Eligibility is based on the following:

- raising one child and earned less than \$31,030 (\$33,030 if married),
- raising two or more children and earned less than \$35,263 (\$37,263 if married), or
- had no children and earned less than \$11,750 (\$13,750 if married).

Families that earned more than \$11,000 in 2005 may be eligible for the refundable Child Tax Credit on their federal tax return.

A family with income below \$35,000 also may be eligible for free income tax preparation assistance. For more information on the EITC and tax preparation services, contact the following:

Montgomery County: (301) 279-1035

Prince George's County: (301) 772-8420 ext. 235

District of Columbia: (202) 463-6211



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Customer Service: (202) 833-7500
TTY Telephone Number for Hearing Impaired: (202) 872-2369
To Report Power Outages: 1-877-PEPCO 62 (1-877-737-2662)