



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2011

News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

Agency Website: www.willcountyhealth.org

Twitter: WillCoHealth

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES TIPS TO DEAL WITH POWER OUTAGE

JOLIET — The Will County Health Department is anxious to provide some basic health and safety information in the wake of any power outages resulting from Monday's windstorms.

Households and food service establishments that have been without power for several hours should consider discarding the perishable contents of refrigerators and coolers. Foodborne illnesses can result from consuming food products that have been spoiled due to the lack of refrigeration.

A longstanding public health adage proclaims "when in doubt, throw it out." The contents of freezers are probably safe if ice crystals remain. Food that has thawed should be discarded, or cooked immediately.

On average, the refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about four hours if it is unopened. On average, a full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48-hours (24 hours if it is half full), if the door remains closed.

To dispose of foods that have gone bad, place them in tied garbage bags and in covered garbage containers. These steps will help eliminate insect and rodent infestations.

For more information, contact Will County Environmental Health at 815-727-8490.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Main Office
501 Ella Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433
Ph 815.727.8480
Fx 815.727.8484

Community Health Center
1106 Neal Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433
Ph 815.727.8670
Fx 815.727.8852

Eastern Branch Office
44 Towncenter
University Park, IL 60466
Ph 815.727.8803
Ph 708.534.0800
Fx 708.534.3455

Northern Branch Office
323 Quadrangle Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
Ph 630.679.7000
Fx 630.679.7015