



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EMPIRE DISTRICT ENCOURAGES WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS**

JOPLIN, MO – January 5, 2018 – The Empire District Electric Company urges customers to have a plan developed in case of a winter storm emergency. Winter storms can lead to a loss of power and heat, and it's necessary to be prepared, especially if you or a loved one is medically dependent upon electricity for health and safety.

If a winter storm occurs, **safely** restoring power to customers is the highest priority and crews will work tirelessly to restore service. In these conditions, customers should remember to avoid downed powerlines which should always be considered live and deadly. If you spot a downed powerline or experience power loss, call 1-800-206-2300 to make a report. To ensure the safety of yourself and your family during a loss of power, create a safety kit with the following items:

- Emergency telephone numbers
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio and battery-operated clock
- Additional batteries for all battery operated items
- Supply of bottled water and non-perishable foods that do not need to be heated
- Manually operated can opener
- First-aid kit and medications
- Specific items necessary to meet the needs of infants, children, elderly, and family members who have special needs
- Blankets and warm, drying clothing

Visit the Outage Center section of our website at [www.empiredistrict.com/outages](http://www.empiredistrict.com/outages) for more tips and information including the outage restoration process, storm season planning tips, generator and food safety, weatherhead damage, and more.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com). For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

###

**Contact:**

Jillian Campbell  
Corporate Communications  
(417) 625-5180  
[jcampbell@empiredistrict.com](mailto:jcampbell@empiredistrict.com)