



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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NEWS

Hamilton County Public Health Urges Food Safety during Power Outage

HAMILTON COUNTY, Ohio – With widespread power outages and blackouts in the area, local health officials are reminding residents and food service facilities how to handle food during power outages.

At Home

If power is out at your home, do not open refrigerator(s) or freezer(s). Without power, a combination refrigerator/freezer will keep food cool for 4 hours, if left closed. Upright or chest freezers will keep food frozen:

- 48 hours if full
- 24 hours if half-full

Food may be kept safe by using coolers and burying perishable food items in ice or dry ice.

If your power has been out for longer than 4 hours, perishable food such as meat, poultry or dairy is not safe to eat and should be discarded. Before consuming items, check them with a food thermometer. Food items over 41 degrees should not be eaten.

“Never taste food to determine it’s safety, your health is not worth the risk,” Health Commissioner Tim Ingram said. “When in doubt, throw it out.”

At the Restaurant, Market or other Food Service Facility

If your business loses power, stop serving food and close. Do not open refrigerator or freezer holding units. When power returns check all food temperatures. If cold foods are above 41 degrees discard immediately.

Residents should use caution when patronizing restaurants that appear to be operating without power. “If anyone sees a restaurant that is clearly without power and is open for business, they should notify Hamilton County Public Health at 513-946-7832,” Ingram said.

A Food Safety Hotline has been opened at 513-946-7949 for further questions and concerns.

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