

Date: 18 October 2017

To: Returning Home when POWER IS NOT RESTORED

From: Medical Officers of Health – South Zone

As many people around southern Alberta return home after the recent fire-related evacuations, it's important to remember that power restoration may not be complete.

When power has not yet been restored to your home, particularly given the weather forecast is for cooler temperatures, we ask that you please consider the following:

- You may not have heat, lighting, hot water, running water, and possibly not even phone service or radio (unless battery operated) to monitor news broadcasts.
- **Never use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heating equipment, or home generators indoors. They give off carbon monoxide. Because you can't smell or see it, carbon monoxide can cause health problems and is life-threatening.**
- Please carry a flashlight and cell phone.
- Use candles carefully (proper holders, don't leave unattended).
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines carefully when using a power generator.

If using a wood burning stove (if permitted in your area):

- The wood burning stove should have an approved, clean chimney with a spark arrestor.
- When removing ashes from the stove, place in a metal bucket with a lid and place the bucket outside in a fire-safe location until safe to dispose of.

Additionally, please be mindful of local fire bans or restrictions within your community.

Resources:

Returning to your Home (Alberta Health Services)
(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eph-returning-home-sz-fire.pdf>)

Power Outages – What to do (Government of Canada)
<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcls/pblctns/pwrtqs-wtd/index-en.aspx#s4>