



January/February 2006

LIPA NEWS



George E. Pataki
Governor
Richard M. Kessel
Chairman

www.lipower.org

Message from the Chairman

We've all seen the devastating effects of hurricanes on coastal communities, including those recently caught in the paths of Dennis, in Florida, and Emily, in Texas. Fortunately for those of us in the northeast, no full-force hurricanes have reached our area in 20 years – but there is no guarantee that we won't be struck at any given time.

Hurricane season runs from June 1- November 30. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 2005 outlook indicates a 70% probability of an above-normal hurricane season for Atlantic states. LIPA has taken an active role in helping to ensure that in the event of a hurricane, Long Islanders have the best protection possible. In conjunction with the New York State Office of Emergency Management and KeySpan, LIPA conducted its second annual islandwide "I'm Ready" emergency preparedness drill this June. The drill – the largest of its kind in the nation – encourages LIPA customers to prepare for a major emergency such as a hurricane or a terrorist attack that strikes the electric system.

Sixteen towns and villages and Long Island's two cities, the Long Island Rail Road, major hospitals, colleges, police departments, numerous businesses and private residents were involved. Local, county and state emergency response groups also joined forces to test emergency response procedures. By cutting back on electric use, testing backup equipment and reviewing emergency response plans, participating Long Islanders took action to ensure their own protection and the protection of those in their care. In the long run, this could well be a lifesaver.

Whether or not you participated in this year's drill, I encourage you to prepare for the possibility of a major hurricane.

I urge you to take the time to prepare now so that, should a hurricane hit here, Long Island residents will be able to say, "I'm ready."

Richard M. Kessel
Chairman



Richard M. Kessel

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Are you ready for cold temperatures, ice, sleet and snow? A dangerous winter storm could cause problems with our electric system, and we urge you to be prepared for any emergency.



- FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT, STAY AWAY FROM FALLEN POWER LINES – heavy snow buildup can cause tree branches to fall and bring down our power lines
- BE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH FRESH BATTERIES TO POWER RADIOS & FLASHLIGHTS – listen to the radio for updates on the restoration process, and make sure every family member has a flashlight
- KEEP YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER DOORS CLOSED - and keep the cold inside. Frozen food remains frozen for 48 hours as long as the door remains closed
- NEVER USE AN OUTDOOR GRILL TO COOK INDOORS OR TO HEAT YOUR HOME -dangerous carbon monoxide gas can build up in your home, causing illness and even death.
- LAYERS OF CLOTHING AND BLANKETS PROVIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR KEEPING WARM.
- NOTIFY LIPA AT 1-800-490-0025 NOW IF YOUR HAVE LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT IN YOUR HOME- customers with life support equipment will be notified in the event of an extensive or long term outage and should make necessary arrangements in case of an emergency situation.
- CALL LIPA AT 1-800-490-0075 TO REPORT A DOWNED ELECTRIC LINE OR IF YOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE IS OFF.

Conservation Tips

Every little bit helps! Make sure you turn off:

- the TV, when no one is watching,
- the lights, when no one is in the room,
- the clothes dryer once the clothing is dry
- the stove, when the water is already boiling
- the computer, when it is not being used

Needs a Title

Projects involving electrical wiring can be intimidating to the average do-it-yourselfer. And they should be. Even the smallest electrical mistake can result in major loss, injury or damage. So, when a home-improvement project calls for electric work, hire a licensed electrician.

To ensure that you are hiring a licensed electrician, here are some questions you should ask:

- Does the electrician have a permanent business address and telephone number?
- How long has the electrician's company been in business?
- Check the standing of your potential contractor:
Queens: Visit www.NYC.gov or call 311
Nassau: Call the building department of your municipality
Suffolk: Call the Department of Consumer Affairs
- Can your potential electrician provide references?

Electrical wiring is a serious business. The safety of your home and family should be foremost in your decision to **always choose a licensed electrician.**

Residential Energy Affordability Program- Lower Your Energy Bills

REAP is a Program for income-eligible households to help manage their electric bill through education and possible installation of energy-saving devices, at no cost to you!



You Qualify for REAP if:

- You have a LIPA account
- You live in a one to four family dwelling
- You meet the income Guidelines

Call REAP at 1-800-263-6786 or email us at reap.lipa@honeywell.com

Welcome to EasyStreet!

Now you can receive and pay your LIPA bill electronically – and use the time you usually



spend paying your LIPA bill doing something more enjoyable! Sign up for EasyStreet and you will automatically be enrolled in electronic bill delivery (via email) and bill payment. What could be easier than that? Visit us online at www.lipower.org and click on the EasyStreet button, or call us at 1-800-490-0025 to enroll.

Trouble Paying Your Bills?

With the high costs of energy these days, meeting your bills could be a problem. There is help available -- to pay your LIPA bill and to use electricity more efficiently. Some of these programs may require income eligibility. Call today to see if you qualify.



HEAP - help paying your energy bills

NASSAU	516-227-8519
SUFFOLK	631-853-8825
THE ROCKAWAYS	800-692-0557

REAP - electric conservation education and assistance
1-800-263-6786

PROJECT WARMTH - emergency assistance paying your LIPA bill 631-940-3757

INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

NASSAU	516-571-8770
SUFFOLK	631-853-8326
THE ROCKAWAYS	212-442-1000

Pay Thru Your Bank

LIPA added two new featured banking partnerships ...WaMu and Nassau Educators FCU... to make paying your bills more convenient! Check us out at www.lipower.org/account/banks.html.

In a Nut Shell

Call us at 1-800-490-0025 or visit us online at www.lipower.org for:

- To register for EasyStreet
- To enroll in DirectPay
- To sign up for Balanced Billing
- To notify us about Life Support Equipment

Call us at 1-800-692-2626 or visit us online at www.lipower.org for:

- Information about LIPA Green Choice

Are you eligible for REAP? Call: 1-800-263-6786

ALWAYS USE A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN!