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November 2, 2012

For immediate release

Unplugging appliances will help avoid a power surge

Nearly half of all power has been restored in the state and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources is offering tips on how to reduce the risk of a voltage surge or a voltage spike as power is restored. A surge can destroy or severely weaken a device.

To reduce the risk of a voltage surge when power is restored, residents should consider the following actions:

- Unplug or turn off all appliances
This may include your furnace, refrigerator, computer, stove, water heater, TV, VCR and microwave.
- Keep one light turned to the on position so you'll know when electricity has been restored

More than 725,000 residents were initially affected due to power outages following the snow storm caused by hurricane Sandy. Find more information about power outage safety online at www.appalachianpower.com/outages/faq/OutageSafetyTips.aspx and www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/outages_help/what_to_do_if_youlosepower.html or by calling your local power company.