

**OFFICE OF
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Date: 02/15/2021

To: Media Outlets

From: Jarrod Fell

Subject: Possible Controlled Power Outages

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management has relayed the following information:

The Southwest Power Pool, which encompasses all electric providers in Kansas has gone to Energy Emergency Alert Level 3. What this means is that the providers can utilize controlled service interruptions essentially rolling blackouts. The periods of interruption will likely be a small number of hours, but with temperatures at the lows they are it won't take long for people to get cold.

Lyon County Emergency Management recommends that all residents prepare for these controlled outages, although it is unknown if our community will be impacted. Sealing gaps in windows and doors can help in keeping out the cold air. Gather blankets and develop a plan to stay warm for a few hours if necessary. We caution all residents NOT to utilize a heat source indoors that is fueled by gasoline, diesel, propane, and butane fuel. These fuel sources produce carbon monoxide and are unsafe to be used indoors. Other alternative heat sources may be unsafe as well. Use caution when considering these alternate methods of heating.

If you have an emergency generator, please pay attention to the exhaust to ensure it is not entering into the home.

Leave sufficient space between alternative heating devices and combustible material to prevent fires from occurring.

Avoid using stovetop gas burners to supply heat.

We recommend that you develop a plan and stay home if possible. Road conditions are unfavorable at this time and the temperatures are bitter cold. Alternative plans may include driving to a neighbor's home that may have heat. Lyon County has warming shelter plans in place, if prolonged power outages occur, we will notify the public of warming shelter operations and locations.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Fell

Lyon County Emergency Management
Director