For more information contact:
Kristi S. George, Public Information Specialist III
Center for Threat Preparedness
Telephone: (304) 558-6900, x 2018

October 31, 2012

For immediate release

Center for Threat Preparedness warns about downed power lines

WV Department of Health and Human Services Center for Threat Preparedness is warning people over the next couple of days to stay away from any power lines brought down by strong winds or snow.

Center for Threat Preparedness Director Jerry Rhodes said, “Power lines that have fallen to the ground may look safe but they’re very often still live. Live lines can kill. Stay well away from them and call the power company if you see any downed lines.”

If people see lines down they should treat them as live at all times, keep themselves and others well clear and contact Appalachian Power on the emergency line (800) 982-4237 or First Energy at (888) 544-4877 immediately.

Power companies have the latest information posted online. People with mobile phones and web browsers may wish to save their power company’s webpage to their favorites:

- First Energy/Potomac Edison: http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/mdwv.html
- Appalachian Power: https://www.appalachianpower.com/Default.aspx

Rhodes said people wanting further information should call their power company.

The National Weather Service is monitoring severe weather for West Virginia; residents are encouraged to stay informed.

The mission of the Center for Threat Preparedness is to ensure adequate capacity and effective systems ready to respond to natural and intentional threats to the public’s health through collaborative leadership and coordination.

More information about the Center for Threat Preparedness is available at http://www.healthprep.wv.gov.

-30-