

# CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

*Serving the Towns of East Haddam, East Hampton,  
Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland & Colchester  
240 Middletown Avenue  
East Hampton, Connecticut 06424  
(860) 365-0884 tel  
(860) 365-0885 fax*

## **Restaurant and Grocer procedures during and after Power Outages and other Natural Disasters.**

Following a natural disaster there are potential health concerns that can be created by the disruptions caused by the disaster. This document provides food safety information and guidance for foodservice establishments conducting business during and in the aftermath of natural or other disasters.

There are potential health concerns that are created by the disruption of electricity. The loss of refrigeration can adversely affect the wholesomeness of food. An assessment of your food establishment will be made at the time of the disaster by a sanitarian to determine if the emergency has impeded your ability to prepare and serve food safely. The following are some of the conditions that would require the food establishment to close immediately to ensure the compliance with the Connecticut Public Health Code.

- Loss of potable water in the establishment.
- Loss of electricity, depending on the duration and other factors.
- Structural integrity of the establishment is compromised.

If the Director of Health has determined that the emergency has impeded your ability to serve food safely, an order of closure of the restaurant may be issued to protect the public until authorities deem the situation safe.

**“A food establishment that is ordered or other required to cease operation may not re-open until the local director of health has rescinded the closure order and granted authorization to resume operation.”**

Please read the enclosed information regarding food and water safety during natural disasters. If you have any questions, please call the Chatham Health District at 860-365-0884. Thank you.