

Preparing for winter weather

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While it looks like we will ease into December with above average temperatures, we know cold weather is going to happen at some point this winter. The Street Maintenance Department of Municipal Services completed training, equipment checks and calibrations in early November to ensure they were ready for this winter season. You can watch more about these preparations here, <https://youtu.be/SacJsVmVYyQ>.

February 2021, saw an unprecedented cold weather event with wide-ranging energy ramifications across much of the United States. The City of Independence Utilities and other members of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) continue to learn from this event but are taking steps to prepare for this winter season as well. Here are a few of the ways they and all of the SPP are adjusting:

- Coordinated outages and communicate resource adequacy regularly to ensure shortages are known and allocated before there is an issue, where possible.
- Better winterization of equipment to prepare for extreme cold weather.
- Better communicate fuel supplies throughout the SPP and respond to changes accordingly.
- Coordinate market/market resource offers to ensure costs are minimized throughout the SPP.
- Diversify energy portfolio to include wind, solar, coal, and gas energy.
- Coordinate load shedding to limit impact on systems and ensure outages are as short as possible. The IPL team is reviewing the local plan with the goal to let customers know when they will be impacted where possible if required outages occur.

Additionally, there are steps you can take as a utility consumer to increase energy efficiency and decrease utility bills.

- Take advantage of heat from the sun during the day and open your drapes or curtains to let the sun warm rooms
- Cover drafty windows
- Adjust the temperature on your thermostat to a cooler temperature
- Schedule service for your heating system annually
- Keep your fireplace damper closed when not using
- Lower your water heating costs by reducing the temperature
- Use efficient holiday lighting options such as LED lights and timers to control how long lights are on

Finally, as we turn on our heaters, light the fireplaces, or plug in space heaters - our chances of fire increase. Here are a few important heating reminders:

- Half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Never leave candles unattended and keep decorations away from the flame.
- A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast. Keep your tree well-watered and at least three feet away from heat sources.
- Read manufacturer instructions for the number of light strands to connect and do not overload them.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from any heat source such as fireplaces, wood burning stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away from your home as possible.
- Have your HVAC system serviced and chimney inspected every year.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.

With a bit of planning, you can stay safe and prepared for the colder weather.



I-Share Assists Local Families

Independence residents on fixed incomes may be finding it challenging to meet their monthly obligations as utility and basic living costs continue to rise. Assistance through the I-Share program helps to pay for a portion of the electric bill resulting in more money for other life necessities like food, medicine, and housing expenses.

The I-Share program has been in existence for over 20 years. The program pays the customer's utility bill as a one-time assistance. Contributions from citizens and private sources are matched dollar for dollar by the City of Independence Power and Light Department. The funds are collected by the Truman Heartland Community Foundation and the program is administered to qualifying families through Community Services League.

Consider making a financial contribution during this holiday season to help Residents of Independence:

I-Share
Truman Heartland Community Foundation
4200 Little Blue Parkway, Suite 340
Independence MO 64057

The City of Independence is asking residents and business owners to provide feedback on what their priorities are in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget that will go into effect on July 1, 2022. Take this quick survey to let us know your thoughts.

[Take the survey here](#)



Upcoming Events and Programs

There are a many fun events and programs scheduled through the end of the year. Look below for dates, locations and links for more information.

December 3 - [Living Windows](#) on the Historic Independence Square and Santa XPress at the Uptown Market beginning at 6 P.

December 4 - [Winter Farmers Market](#) from 9 A to 1 P. Find locally grown foods and handmade crafts. Next Winter Market will be Jan. 8.

December 8 - [Winter Solstice Torch-Lit Hike](#) at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd., from 5-7:30 P. Enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities.

December 11 - Uptown Holiday Market from 10A-2P. Handmade gifts, craft vendors, Holiday DIY station, drinks, snacks and more. No admittance fee.



December 12 - [Holiday Concert](#) at the Truman Memorial Building with the Spirit of Independence Band begins at 4 P.

December 17 - 3rd Friday Christmas in Englewood Art District beginning at 5:30 P

December 24-27 - City offices closed for the Christmas Holiday.

December 31 - City offices closed for the New Year's Holiday.

LIVE SESSION: Dealing with holiday & work stress

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Wed., December 15

Midwest Genealogy Center,
3440 S. Lee's Summit Road

Presented by:



[Find upcoming clinics here](#)

Learn who is eligible for first, second and booster shots at the link above.



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