

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING

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Public Safety Committee, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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BROWNING URGES LIPA CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO ENROLL IN CRITICAL CARE PROGRAM

Mastic, NY - With the official beginning of the hurricane season this month it is important that all residents prepare in advance for an emergency. Legislator Browning wants to inform all Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) customers who rely on electricity to power life-supporting equipment in their homes about LIPA's little known "Critical Care Program".

Customers enrolled in the Critical Care Program will receive advance notice of scheduled outages and severe weather that may cause power outages. This will enable customers who depend on electricity for emergency medical and life-support equipment to make advanced preparations. If an outage does occur, LIPA will make every effort to restore electric service to program participants as soon as possible. Circumstances may cause timely restoration to be difficult, so the Critical Care Program cannot guarantee priority restoration of service, but it is another service that should be taken advantage of. It is important customers realize it is their responsibility to develop a plan that will ensure their medical needs are taken care of in the event of a power outage.

"The Critical Care Program is another tool special needs residents can utilize in order to protect themselves from the effects of a natural disaster," stated Legislator Browning. "I am encouraging customers who qualify for this program to do register before the next storm hits. We all know that power outages are almost certain during a hurricane, and for some residents that can mean life and death. I want to make sure we improve the safety of these individuals because they are more vulnerable during an emergency."

Customers wishing to enroll in the Critical Care Program must provide LIPA with a medical certificate from a doctor or the local Board of Health. Once approved the customer's account and meter will be tagged as "critical care."

Devices which meet the medical criteria for life-support equipment include:

- Apnea Monitor
- Curraise Respirator
- Positive Pressure Respirator
- Suction Machine
- IV Feeding Machine
- Tank Type Respirator
- Respirator/Ventilator
- Hemodialysis Machine
- Rocking Bed Respirator
- Oxygen Concentrator
- IV Medical Infusion Machine

For more information about **LIPA's Critical Care Program** call 1-800-490-0025 or visit <http://www.lipower.org/residential/custserv/services-care.html>