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Statewide gas outage updates

Latest on the crisis from around New Mexico

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- This includes potentially needed transportation to shelter sites: (575)751-8123, (575) 751-8125
- Bureau of Land Management lowers thermostats, closes** - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has closed four offices in New Mexico in response to Governor Susana Martinez's state of emergency announcement about weather-related natural gas outages in the state. The closures, effective at 2 p.m. today, affects BLM offices in Taos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Socorro. The offices will reopen on Monday, February 7.
- Statement from Rep. Ben Ray Lujan** - "I have alerted FEMA, the White House, and a number of federal agencies of the seriousness of this emergency and urged them to take any action at their disposal to help New Mexicans get through this. I have also reached out to the National Nuclear Security Administration and Los Alamos National Laboratory to ask them to limit the use of natural gas at LANL until we can restore heat to all our communities."
- State offices close** - As part of the state response to the weather-related energy emergency, Gov. Susana Martinez at noon ordered non-essential state personnel to close up shop for the day.
- Natural Gas Emergency** - Gas Company of New Mexico: Due to rolling blackouts in West Texas and other problems, the delivery of natural gas into New Mexico has been impeded. States in the southwest are experiencing similar issues. The New Mexico Gas Company pipeline system is intact and crews are working to minimize the impact of this temporary situation. Customers have experienced an interruption of service in several communities. These include: Tularosa, La Luz, Espanola, Taos, Questa, Red River, the town of Bernalillo, Placitas, Santa Clara Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Alamogordo, Silver City, and San Ildefonso Pueblo. NM Gas Co. has been working with National, County and State emergency services and officials, as well as local assistance agencies. Visit [their website](#) for a list of communities affected, a list of local emergency shelters, safety information and other up-to-date-information. The website will be continually updated as new information becomes available.
- Officials call for electricity, gas conservation** - El Paso Electric Company has notified the Doña Ana County Emergency Operations Center that supply levels remain low throughout the region, and consumers are strongly encouraged to conserve power wherever possible. A decision will be made later today about whether El Paso Electric will recommend that large-scale power users close again on Friday. Although planned, rolling blackouts were suspended just after 11 p.m. last night, much colder temperatures expected overnight may result in additional brief blackouts in targeted areas. Residents also are being asked to turn back thermostats to conserve on natural gas. Area lines are steadily losing pressure, which could result in catastrophic losses of residential heating capacity. Throughout Wednesday and today, county-wide, law-enforcement agencies continue to respond to vehicle collisions due to poor driving conditions. The situation will worsen as night falls and moisture on the surface becomes black ice. Motorists are strongly encouraged to stay off the roads except for emergencies, and to exercise extreme caution, low speed and plenty of space between vehicles in traffic to minimize collisions. The Doña Ana County Emergency Operations Center has been activated as of 7 a.m. Wednesday to marshal resources as needed throughout the county. Officials encourage people with companion animals to bring them indoors, and to check frequently on elderly and infirm neighbors. The Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority is operating normally to receive both emergency 911 calls and non-emergency calls at (575) 526-0795.
- PNM lifts appeal for voluntary cutbacks in power use in Ruidoso and Alamogordo** - PNM has restored service to the second transmission line serving the Alamogordo and Ruidoso area and has lifted its appeal to customers in those communities to cut back on all nonessential electricity use. The appeal was issued around 6:30 a.m. today. One of two transmission lines serving the area experienced problems early this morning and went out of service, causing the second line to become overloaded. The second line typically can serve the area but the extreme cold has caused usage to be much higher than normal. To prevent significant, lengthy outages, PNM implemented rolling outages this morning to reduce load on the line, affecting several customers in the Ruidoso and Alamogordo areas. With the second line repaired, the rolling outages have ended, and power is restored. Although the problem has been resolved, PNM reminds customers throughout its system that it is always good practice in extreme weather to cut back on usage where possible. This includes turning off lights in rooms that aren't in use. "We appreciate our customers' patience this morning and their help in reducing

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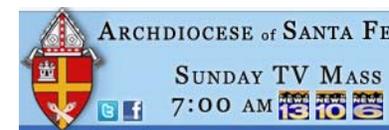
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