

R. Joseph Ebel, R.S., M.S., M.B.A.  
Health Commissioner



(740) 349-6535  
(740) 349-6474 WIC  
(740) 349-6475 Environmental  
(740) 349-6476 Nursing  
(740) 349-6510 FAX  
[www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org)

## Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road Newark, Ohio 43055-9546

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### FOOD SAFETY STEPS TO FOLLOW DURING AND AFTER THE WEATHER EMERGENCY:

Never taste a food to determine its safety!

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.

The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full and the door remains closed).

Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40 °F or below.

Obtain block ice or dry ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period of time.

Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18-cubic-foot full freezer for 2 days.

If the power has been out for several days, then check the temperature of the freezer with an appliance thermometer or food thermometer. If the food still contains ice crystals or is at 40 °F or below, the food is safe.

If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, then check each package of food to determine its safety. If the food still contains ice crystals, the food is safe.

Discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, eggs, leftovers, and deli items after 4 hours without power.

Drink only bottled water if flooding has occurred.

**When in Doubt, Throw it Out!**

For more information visit [Food Safety During An Emergency](#)