



LOCAL 1-2 WORKERS WILL KEEP LIGHTS ON, WITH SANDY BEARING DOWN ON NY UTILITY WORKERS ARE READY

Harry J. Farrell, President of Local 1-2, Utility Workers Union of America, the men and women who are first responders during weather emergencies for their largest employer, Con Edison, said today that his Members are ready to work round the clock if Hurricane Sandy arrives in New York City and Westchester this week.

Farrell said, “As we saw last year during Tropical Storm Irene, the professional men and women of Local 1-2 are the first out there when the weather threatens citizens’ lives and their homes. Local 1-2 Members leave their families behind during emergencies to protect the public safety. So if your lights go out, take comfort knowing that the best utility workers in the nation will be out there day and night until your power is restored.”

Local 1-2 Members are particularly sensitive on the eve of Sandy because of Con Ed’s actions during last July’s heat wave when it locked out Local 1-2 Members and instead relied on bringing in out-of-state workers who were untrained for New York’s sophisticated live grid, causing injuries to workers and endangering the public.

James Slevin, Vice President of Local 1-2, added, “The shoddy work performed by out-of-state scabs in July left plenty of overtime for Local 1-2 Members when they returned to work to fix the errors they found throughout the system.”

Slevin added that Local 1-2 wanted to reassure the public that should power outages happen because of Sandy that Con Ed was actually prepared this time for an emergency with a professional workforce unlike July when it relied on luck and a prayer.

Slevin said, “I think it important that the public know it is in safe hands should Sandy cause disruptions of service.”