



# Blackberry Juice

**DECEMBER 2022**

**BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION**

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After Hours Water and

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## Have a Warm and Merry Christmas

May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

With extremely cold temperatures forecasted for this weekend, please make sure you are prepared.

### Fuel and Heat

Check your propane tank fuel level. Don't rely on your propane company to routinely check your tank. During the winter months it's a good practice to keep your tank no less than 25% full.

It is not uncommon for portions of Gilmer County to be without electrical service for extended periods of time due to fallen trees brought on by wind, heavy rain, snow and ice. Remember your furnace must have an electrical source to operate.

Do you have an alternative heat source for your home? If you have a fireplace, make sure that it is functioning properly, the chimney is clean, and you have a good supply of dry, seasoned firewood, kindling and fire starters.

If you have a gas range, learn to light the burners manually. If you have a generator, make certain that it is functioning properly and that you have sufficient fuel for several days of continuous operation.

### Water

Blackberry's wells are equipped with electric pumps. When there is a community power outage, the pumps will not function and water will not be pumped to your home.

Make sure you have a supply of potable water for drinking and cooking. FEMA recommends the storage of a minimum of 1 gallon of water per family member per day for no less than 14 days.



Many residents collect gray water in rain barrels to use for flushing toilets. Filling bathtubs with water prior to a snow or ice event is also a good idea.

**Also, protect outside spigots and water pipes with insulated covers.**

If you plan to be away from your home, consider shutting off the water supply and draining the inside water lines. Set thermostats at 50 degrees or above and open cabinet doors where water pipes are located.

### Roads

If you're concerned about getting out of your home due to ice or snow, make sure you have an accessible supply of ice melt to apply to your porch, sidewalk and driveway.

Blackberry's roads, as well as most of Gilmer County's secondary roads, are not plowed. If you think you will need to drive, ensure that you have a properly equipped vehicle. Four-wheel drive, snow tires and chains may be necessary.

In case of an emergency, remember that Gilmer County EMS will enter Blackberry, so don't hesitate to call 911.

