



Power Outage Tips

- Make sure the outage goes beyond your home. Check your breakers or fuses and the power lines to your house. If the power outage goes beyond just your home, notify the electric company.
- If cold outside, it is important to stay warm. Dressing in layers and huddle under extra blankets, Blankets can be hung on Windows to draw in heat. Keep doors and windows closed, and use towels to block drafts around them.
- Food can stay frozen 24 to 36 hours if the refrigerator/freezer door stays closed. Eat your fresh, perishable foods first. Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer to preserve cool temperatures. An unopen refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Measure the food temperature in your refrigerator and freezer with a thermometer. Throw out food that has been warmer than 40 degrees F. It is important to have a stock on non-perishable food items and bottled water in your pantry. You should also stock-up on extra food and water for your pets.
- Have your house stocked full of essential supplies.
 - Water (FEMA recommends one gallon per person for several days, for drinking and sanitation).
 - Food (FEMA recommends at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food).
 - Flashlight
 - Extra Batteries
 - Medical Kit
 - Extra Medication
 - Non-electric Can Opener
 - Battery Powered Radio
 - Baby Wipes for sanitation
 - Emergency Blankets
 - Cell Phone Charger
- Carbon Monoxide Kills.
 - Have your fireplace and chimney cleaned before using. Never use gas generators, camping stoves or barbeques indoors for heating your home.
 - Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
 - Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
 - If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
 - Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.
- Listen to the news on a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio. If you're using a cellphone, it is better to use texting over calling to keep phone lines free, or use your landline. You should save the phone lines for emergency calls.
- Unplug appliances and electronics to avoid a surge when the power comes back on. It is good to leave one lamp on so you know when the power comes back. If you have electric heat, keep all taps on a slow drip to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.



If You Have to Evacuate:

- Turn off the main breaker, circuit breaker panel or power supply box.
- Turn off the water main and drain water from the system; open all taps, flush several times, open the drain valve in basement, and drain the hot water tank into the floor drain. If you have a gas heater, turn out the pilot light.
- Unhook the washing machine hoses and drain.
- Add a small amount of antifreeze to water left in toilet bowls and sink/tub traps if cold.
- Clear valuables off the basement floor.

When The Power Comes Back On:

- If it's cold and a burst pipe has flooded your basement, don't go in until you're sure the power is off. If equipment is flooded, don't use it until it's been checked by a qualified technician.
- If you turned off the main power switch, make sure appliances and electronics are unplugged before you turn it back on to prevent power surge damage. Wait for the electrical system to stabilize before reconnecting; start with the heating system, then appliances.
- Turn the water supply back on. Keep the taps on the lowest level of your home closed to allow air out from the upper taps.
- Fill the hot water heater before you turn it on.
- Help the house dry by warming it slightly above normal temperature for a few hours.
- Check your food supplies for spoilage. If the power has been out for two or three days, your freezer may still be frozen depending on the outside temperature. If it's been a lot longer, don't open your fridge or freezer; you may have to dispose of the whole thing.
- Replace the items you used from your emergency survival kits.