



Power Outages | During Hazard Preparation Checklist

What Should I Do During a Power Outage?

- ❑ Monitor conditions using a NOAA Weather Radio or your preferred local news source.
- ❑ Do not call 911 for information. Call only to report a life-threatening emergency. Use the phone for life-threatening emergencies only.
- ❑ Use only flashlights for emergency lighting. Avoid using candles due to fire risk.
- ❑ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.
- ❑ Turn off or disconnect appliances or electronics in use when the power went out. Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage computers and appliances, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, washers, or furnaces.
- ❑ Leave one light on so that you'll know when your power is restored.
- ❑ Take steps to remain cool if it is hot outside:
 - Consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall, or "cooling shelter" that may be open in your community
 - If you remain at home, move to the lowest level of your home, since cool air falls
 - Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
 - Drink plenty of water even if you do not feel thirsty
 - Provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets
- ❑ Take steps to remain warm if it is cold outside:
 - Put on layers of warm clothing if it is cold outside
 - Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors
 - Never use your oven as a source of heat
 - If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (the home of a relative or friend, or a public facility) that has heat to keep warm
- ❑ Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic signal outages result in traffic congestion.
- ❑ Remember that equipment such as ATMs and elevators may not work during a power outage.
- ❑ Check your Disaster Supply Kit and replace or restock items as needed. Ensure that you have working flashlights and batteries.
- ❑ Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities. Close propane tank valves.
- ❑ Store drinking water in clean plastic bottles and pots and pans.
- ❑ Maintain contact with friends and neighbors who may be more vulnerable due to functional needs.
- ❑ If you are using a generator, be sure to learn about portable generator hazards and follow generator safety procedures.