



# Are you prepared for a Power Outage?

---

Most of us have gotten through a power outage when it lasts a few hours to a half a day with no major problems, but what if it lasts for a number of days, a week or even longer are you prepared?

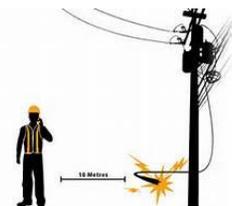
Power can go out at any time due to natural disasters, severe weather, accidents or other unpredictable circumstances. The outage may only affect your neighborhood, but what if it's the whole city? Are you prepared to leave town if necessary. Follow the tips below to keep you and your family safe during power outages.

## In Your Home

- Never use kerosene or propane heaters without proper ventilation. They can create dangerous fumes. Also, don't burn charcoal in your house or garage.
- Protect your water pipes during freezing weather by wrapping them with insulation. Also, leave faucets dripping so water won't freeze and crack pipes. Put blankets or towels around your windows and doors to keep the heat in.
- Preserve body heat by wearing multiple layers of clothing including a hat and blankets to stay warm.
- Your freezer should keep food frozen and safe for two or three days when kept closed. (During a hot summer this time will be reduced). Eat refrigerated items first, save the dry goods for last.
- If someone in your home is on life support, be sure to have a back-up system and a plan of action for during an outage.

## Downed Power Line

- Call 911 immediately
- Keep everyone including pets out of the area. You cannot look at a downed line and determine if it's "live." Don't touch it!
- Do not touch a person if a power line is touching them
- If a power line falls across your vehicle, stay in the car and wait for emergency personnel to cut the power. If your vehicle is on fire and you are in imminent danger, JUMP- with both feet together-as far from the car as possible. If a part of your body touches the car and the ground at the same time you could get electrocuted.



## Generator Safety

- If you use a portable generator do so with caution. Generators can pose serious safety hazards when improperly used or installed. Remember to follow the manufactures instruction.
- Never run a generator in the house or garage. Gasoline powered generators produce carbon monoxide and the fumes can be deadly.
- Never plug your generator into an outlet or directly to your homes main fuse box or circuit panel
- Make sure that the total electric load won't exceed the generators rating.
- To temporary power an appliance plug it directly into the generator. Use properly sized and grounded extension cords and route them so they don't present tripping hazards.
- Fuel generator when the engine is cool, do not store extra fuel near the generator.



## It's Best to be Prepared

Assemble an outage kit to include:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery operated alarm clock and radio
- Ready to eat foods and a manual can opener
- Bottled water
- Matches/lighter
- Camp stove
- Blankets
- First aid kit
- Keep vehicles at a minimum ½ tank of fuel



Note: If your family has multiple cell phones use only one at a time, if you have smart phones shut off internet service to preserve the battery. Remember grocery, and hardware stores including gas stations will most likely be closed during large area power outages. City provided services such as water, gas and sewer could also be affected.

## Evacuation

If an order to evacuate has been made, get out ASAP and follow their instructions. Be aware traffic signals may not be working; you may encounter heavy or long lines of traffic. Bridges or roadway problems could also put you at risk. Call family and friends when possible to let them know your location and wellness.

This information provided by the IES Safety Committee.