

Preparing for Power Outages

Power outages are likely to occur during severe weather events – winter storms, hurricanes, heavy wind events, wildfires, strong thunderstorms and floods for example.

The loss of power will likely cause disruptions in communications, water access, utilities and transportation, and often for long periods. The loss of power can cause businesses, gas stations, banks, schools, government agencies and other services to close.

Power outages can also result in losing the contents of your refrigerator and freezer and in winter if your home gets too cold it can lead to frozen pipes.

Be prepared!

Helpful Hints

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to maintain their temperatures longer
- Use generators outdoors only- 20 feet away for any opening to a building
- Unplug appliance to avoid surges (or use surge protectors)
- Have a plan for refrigerating necessary medications
- Have a plan to power necessary medical devices..
- *When in doubt – throw it out* regarding food that may have become contaminated due to poor refrigeration
- Have battery powered fire and CO2 alarms
- Have 5 days of supplies (food water, power available at a minimum)
- Keep your vehicles filled at least halfway with gas and emergency supplies
- Be aware of any water advisories and if in doubt follow safe water procedures
- Keep mobile devices and electronic equipment charged
- Keep hand and toe warmer packet in emergency kit /layers of cloths /extra blankets