

## Tips for Extended Outages

Despite our best efforts, severe and unusual weather can wreak havoc and cause a power outage that can last for hours or days. Snow and ice, high winds, and lightning are a few examples of natural conditions that can seriously damage power equipment in a large area. Even with crews working around-the-clock, repairs are time consuming, difficult, and often dangerous.

**Please let the repair crews do their job.** It's tempting to stop crews and ask questions about when the power is going to be restored, but this only delays the restoration process. Remember that while the crews want to be helpful, they also want to restore your power quickly so they too can get home to their families.

**Be a good neighbor.** Severe storms usually increase the number of accidents and medical problems. Remember this increases the response time for service agencies. You may want to organize people in your area to check on each other and lend assistance.

**Portable generators,** if not used correctly, can cause fatal accidents involving the workers on the lines. Plug appliances into the generator. **DO NOT** connect household breaker circuits to the generator without a "double-throw switch" installed by a licensed electrician.



**Emergency water sources:** Runoff from rooftops can be collected and used for washing, but do not drink it. A water heater can supply drinking water. Be sure the breaker is OFF before you drain it, and be sure to fill it before turning the breaker back on.

**Keep the freezer full.** Milk jugs full of water filling space in your freezer can be a supply of both water and ice in an emergency. Also, a full freezer stays colder longer. Check into purchasing dry ice to help prevent spoilage.

**Put together an emergency kit** that is easily accessible in case of a lengthy power outage or other natural event. Supplies should include:

- Access to a flashlight, radio & fresh batteries. Always keep the batteries separate until you are ready to use them.
- Candles & matches.
- Bottled drinking water. Be sure to store at least one gallon per person per day. If a storm is forecast, fill the bathtub with water so bathroom facilities can still be used by pouring a bucket of water down the toilet to create a vacuum flush.
- If you have a fireplace or woodstove, keep kindling and dry firewood on hand.



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- Clothing. Wear extra layers and cover your head with a hat. Have sleeping bags and blankets handy too.
- Easy-to-prepare food items. Purchase items that don't require much cooking. Canned or instant soups, stews or chili, packaged freeze-dried meals, and protein or breakfast bars are good to have on hand.
- Gas camp stoves, lanterns or barbecues. NEVER use a camp stove or barbecue indoors! Be sure to use any lanterns on a flat, stable and non-flammable surface. Make sure to have extra fuel for cooking outdoors.
- Ample supply of essential prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs. During a storm, road travel may not be possible for several days.
- First aid kit. Make sure that all of the supplies are filled and ready to go.
- Games. Board games and cards are fun and handy to pass the time.

