

BEFORE

-  Keep one or two coolers on hand to preserve perishable food during a power outage.
-  Consider surrounding food in the refrigerator with ice to keep it fresh longer.
-  Prepare an emergency / disaster preparedness kit in advance, and have it easily available. SEE THE EMERGENCY PREP. KIT CHECKLIST.
-  If someone in your household requires powered life sustaining medical equipment, notify your Emergency Medical Service provider of their situation and location.
-  Purchase and maintain a portable electrical generator to power life sustaining medical equipment.
-  Maintain enough gasoline to keep generators running for several hours.
-  DO NOT try to connect a portable generator to your homes electrical system.
-  Keep a number of flashlights and spare batteries on hand at all times.

POWER OUTAGE CHECKLIST

DURING

-  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.
-  Keep all running generators well away from doors, windows and vents.
-  Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.
-  Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
-  Limit use of candles. Use only candles enclosed in glass jars for safety. If used, keep open candles away from all nearby combustibles.
-  Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family away from them. Report downed power lines to the appropriate officials in your area.

AFTER



Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!



Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria causing food-borne illnesses can start growing quickly. Some types of bacteria produce toxins that cannot be destroyed by cooking.

ALWAYS



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 using a gas fireplace for heat during a power outage, ALWAYS make sure the Damper is OPEN, and leave a nearby window open about 1 to 2 inches.



If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.



Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.



Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on.



Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will be congested.

