



POWER OUTAGE

Electrical power can go out for any number of reasons. An unexpected outage can have unforeseen consequences. Without electricity, you may experience shortages of food and clean water, as well as extreme temperatures. You should be prepared to manage without power for an extended period of time.

Rolling Blackouts

- Rolling blackouts, or temporary power shortages, may happen from time to time when power companies turn the power off in certain areas to curb usage.
- Rolling blackouts occur during peak seasons and hours of energy consumption, usually in the summer, 4–7 p.m.
- Power companies try to warn affected areas of planned rolling blackouts, but they cannot always do so.
- The power is usually out for only about an hour.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to be informed about what might happen, make a family emergency plan, and build an emergency supply kit.

Summer Blackouts

- Extreme heat is usually the cause of summer blackouts.
- Summer blackouts are dangerous because they eliminate the most effective ways to beat the heat: fans and air conditioning.
- In the absence of these means of keeping cool, make sure you stay hydrated.
- Take cold showers or baths to cool down.

How to Prepare for a Power Outage

- Make sure you have flashlights and batteries, including a spare battery or hand-crank charger for your cell phone.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated or handcrank radio or TV.
- Stockpile plenty of nonperishable food and bottled water.
- Back up computer files regularly.
- Make a family emergency plan.
- Build an emergency supply kit.



What to Do If There Is a Power Outage

- To minimize risk of fire, use flashlights for light rather than candles.
- Turn off the electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Water purification systems may not be functioning when the power goes out, so water may be unsafe to use. Drink and use water that has been bottled, boiled, or treated with iodine tablets and a filtration system.
- Open the refrigerator and freezer as little as possible. A full freezer should keep food for 48 hours.
- To extend their usability, pack dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, refrigerated medicines, and other items that can quickly spoil in a cooler surrounded by ice.

What to Do If There Is a Power Outage (continued)

- If the power goes out in extreme heat—
 - Stay hydrated, drinking a glass of water every 15–20 minutes.
 - Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
 - Keep the air circulating by opening doors and windows.
 - Be aware of the possibility for a heat-related injury.
- If the power goes out in extreme cold—
 - Wear several layers of warm clothing.
 - Keep moving to stay warm.
 - Be aware of the possibility of hypothermia, which happens when one's body temperature falls below 95°F.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—
 - www.bt.cdc.gov/poweroutage/pdf/poweroutage.pdf
 - www.bt.cdc.gov/poweroutage/pdf/blackout.pdf
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Ready.gov—www.ready.gov/blackouts

Semper Paratus

Be “Always Ready.” Be informed about what might happen, make an emergency plan with your family, and build an emergency supply kit good for at least three days.