



# Power Outage Safety



Regardless of whether a power outage happens in your home because of a grid failure or severe weather like a hurricane, there are things you can do to stay safe and improve day-to-day life without electricity:

- Keep extra cash on hand since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from ATMs or banks.
- Keep a disaster supply kit handy with water, nonperishable foods, medicine, printed copies of essential documents, baby supplies, pet food, and more.
- Maintain a supply of flashlights, batteries, hand-crank cell phone chargers, battery, and solar-powered radios.
- Identify an alternative power supply for any family members dependent on electric medical equipment.
- Keep one or more coolers with ample ice to keep your food cold if a power outage is prolonged. Avoid storing perishable foods above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for more than two hours.
- Open your refrigerator or freezer only when necessary and seek guidance from your local officials to determine the average amount of time your food will remain safe in your area without power.
- Never use candles as they pose a dangerous fire hazard.
- Turn off any electrical equipment used before the power outage but leave one light on to alert you when power resumes.
- Check on elderly neighbors, friends, or relatives who may need assistance during the outage.
- During a power outage, resist the temptation to call 911 for information—use radios, online news sources, or social media channels for updates.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half-full as gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
- Be careful when driving through intersections as traffic lights may not be working.
- Once your power is restored, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances to avoid problems caused by a sharp increase in demand.

*Remember to include power outage tips in your family disaster plan and update your plan each year.*