

Power Outage SAFETY TIPS

SUDDEN POWER OUTAGES CAN BE FRUSTRATING AND TROUBLESOME, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY LAST A LONG TIME. FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO PREPARE, RESPOND, AND RECOVER.

PREPARE

- Collect candles, flashlights, extra batteries, hand-crank radios, phone chargers, matches, and other essentials, and place them in an easily accessible location. You don't want to be fumbling around in the dark trying to find them.
- Create an emergency kit with:
 - First aid kit
 - Medications
 - Multi-purpose tool
 - Pet food
 - Cell phone with charger
 - Extra cash
 - Water
 - Food (non-perishable, easy to prepare)
 - Flashlight
 - Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
 - Extra batteries
 - Sanitation and personal hygiene items

RESPOND

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. A full freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours—24 hours if it's half full. Freezers should be at 0 degrees, refrigerators at 40 degrees. Place a food thermometer inside to check temperatures.
- If it appears the power will be out for more than one day, move food to a cooler packed with ice.
- Turn off and unplug appliances, equipment, or electronics. When the power comes back on, surges or spikes can occur.

RECOVER

- Throw away any frozen or refrigerated foods that have been exposed to temperatures above 40-degrees for more than 2 hours, or have an unusual color, odor, or texture. Perishable foods such as meats, poultry, seafood, milk, and eggs that are not adequately refrigerated or frozen may cause illness even when they've been thoroughly cooked. When in doubt, throw it out.

