

During an Outage

Even the most reliable power can go off sometimes due to storms, accidents, and sometimes wildlife. Print this list to keep in your safety kit in case your electricity goes out.

- Check your fuses or circuit breakers** to rule out problems with electricity inside your home. If you've blown a fuse, replace it with a new one of the same amperage. If the breaker has tripped, reset it from "off" to "on." If you're unsure about fixing a fuse or circuit breaker, call an electrician.
- Call your local electric utility** to report an actual outage. Do not call 911 unless you have a real emergency.
- Listen to radio reports.** If the outage is widespread, use your radio to monitor the outage restoration process.
- Unplug computers, TVs, VCRs,** and other sensitive appliances to avoid possible damage when electricity comes back on. When power resumes, reset clocks and check automatic alarms and timers. Plug in only essential items. Wait 10 minutes before connecting the rest to let the electrical system stabilize.
- Turn off all but one of the lights** that were on, so you will notice when electricity is restored.
- Use a flashlight when it gets dark.** Avoid candles because of the fire risk.
- Turn off heat-producing appliances** like electric irons and heaters to prevent a fire in case no one is home when power is restored.
- If you use a standby generator,** make sure it has a manual or automatic transfer switch. This switch will isolate your home circuits from power lines. A generator that does not have a transfer switch can back feed electricity into main power lines, causing a shock hazard for you and utility crews
- Be alert for carbon monoxide (CO)** buildup from portable generators. Never run a portable generator inside or near a building.
- Traffic lights and railroad crossings** may not work. If you are in a car, remind the driver to stop, look, and listen for cross traffic.
- If you are stuck in an elevator,** stay there and wait for help. Never try to climb out between floors.