

POWER OUTAGES

Most power failures are short in duration but during severe storms or other emergencies they can last for hours, days or in some cases even weeks. Power outages combined with extreme hot or cold weather can put you at further risk.

Before a power outage

- ensure you have working flashlights and batteries in your kit
- install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (with battery backup power) on every floor and test them regularly
- keep a fire extinguisher in your home
- if you choose to have a backup generator, have it installed by professionals, check and maintain it regularly, and store enough spare fuel in approved containers

During a power outage

If your power goes out, check the circuit breakers and fuses in your electrical panel. If neighbouring homes are affected as well, call your electricity distributor to report an outage.

- check that stove elements and the oven are turned off and that nothing is sitting on the stove elements
- flashlights, battery-powered lanterns or glow sticks are safe lighting options to use
- be extremely careful if using candles or oil lanterns
- candles must be in secure holders
- keep flames away from curtains & other combustible materials
- never leave candles or lanterns unattended, put them out if you leave the room
- unplug appliances and electronic equipment to protect them from surges when power returns.
- turn off all lights except for one or two to let you know when power is restored
- keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to prevent food from spoiling
- use a crank or battery-powered radio to stay informed during an outage

When power is restored

- once power has been restored, only turn on essential appliances at first and wait 15-20 minutes to turn on other appliances
- check that your refrigerator and freezer are working properly
- after power is restored, check that food is safe

