

Power outages safety tips

- Never touch downed power lines, and always assume that any fallen lines are live electric wires. If you see one, report it immediately to 911.
- If you use a generator to supply power during an outage, be sure to only operate it outdoors. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide gas, which is odorless, colorless AND DEADLY. Be sure all generators are located 20 feet from any window or door. Before operating generators, be sure to disconnect from electric system by shutting off the main breaker located in the electric service panel. Failure to do this could jeopardize utility crew safety.
- Never leave candles, propane or oil lamps, or any open flame unattended, as they pose a severe fire hazard. Do not place candles near curtains, lampshades or any flammable material. Make sure candle holders are heavy and stable, and can not be knocked over by children or pets.
- If you lose power, turn off any appliances that were on when the power went off, but leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.
- Power problems can sometimes interrupt public water supply systems or disable well pumps, so it's an especially good idea to keep a supply of bottled drinking water handy, as well as some canned food.
- People who depend on electric-powered life support equipment, such as a respirator, should notify their electricity provider.
- Check on elderly family members, neighbors and others who may need assistance during an outage period.
- Turn your refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks. Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.