



Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy. A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly.

## Tips:

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but ONLY outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Check battery powered TV or radio for any heating and cooling locations announced as open near you.

## Preparedness Checklist:

- Take an inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity. Plan for batteries and other alternative power sources to meet your needs when the power goes out, such as a portable charger or power bank.**
- Have flashlights for every household member. Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage and how long battery backup will last.**
- Ask your doctor or medical equipment provider about backup power needs for any powered medical devices in your home.**
- Find out how long medication can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.**
- Have enough nonperishable food and water. 1 Gallon of water per day per person is recommended for drinking. Allow for an additional gallon or more for sanitary needs.**

## Your Safety:

When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.

If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately for a new supply.

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary.

Monitor temperatures with a thermometer. Throw out food if the temperature is 40 degrees or higher.