



Suggested Energy Emergency Safety Rules:

There are specific actions that can be taken during a declared energy shortage or emergency.

Always keep battery-powered radios, flashlights or lamps and fuel available.

Contact the Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency for information as to where temporary lodging is located and means of travel to these locations, if necessary.

Know how to safely shut down your home if you must temporarily evacuate during a winter storm or winter energy crisis. **To do this:**

Turn off all water at the entry point to your building.

Open the lowest tap and all other taps, draining systems completely.

Drain hot water and all storage tanks after turning off the heating source (electricity or gas).

Flush all water closets, making sure no water remains in tanks.

If water is supplied by a well, drain pump and any storage tanks connected with this system.

Check all containers with liquids that could freeze, such as humidifiers, air conditioning units, etc.

Disconnect all electrical appliances and motors and shut off electrical supply at main fuse box.

Turn off all gas appliances and shut off gas at the main source.

Prepare an evacuation pack containing food and water; eating utensils including bottle and can openers; personal safety, sanitation, and medical supplies, including special medications (insulin, heart tablets, etc.); clothing and bedding; and baby supplies (if needed).

Report suspected price rip-offs by fuel dealers, if government price controls are in effect, to the Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency.

During power brownouts or blackouts, do the following:

Determine whether or not voltage drops will harm your appliances, especially refrigerators. If in doubt, shut them off or unplug them until full power is resumed. Disconnect all unnecessary appliances.

If you must maintain in your home an electrically-operated life-support machine such as a respirator, inhalator, or a home dialysis unit, be sure this is known by Huntsville Utilities.

Conserve energy. Citizen conservation actions will make all fuels go further:

Save on lighting and turn off lights when not in use. Install solid-state dimmer switches where incandescent lights do not need to be bright all the time. Change to the more efficient fluorescent light wherever possible. Use one large wattage incandescent bulb rather than several smaller wattage bulbs where strong light is essential.

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If your rooms are heated by free-standing hot water or steam radiators, put sheets of cardboard, faced with aluminum foil stuck on with masking tape or scotch tape, behind them.

Adjust the water heater to about 105 degrees F as a maximum.

Use the small electric heating element (or gas burner) to heat small pots; fit the pot to the size of the element or burner.

Turn electric ovens off five minutes before food is done; residual heat will finish the cooking.

Set the heating thermostat at 65 degrees F during the day and 60 degrees F at night. Set cooling thermostat 78 degrees F - 80 degrees F. Install a clock-thermostat that will automatically turn the heat down at a regular hour before retiring at night and that will turn it up just before wake-up time.

Minimize the use of hot water by washing clothes in warm or cold water whenever possible, taking less time in the shower, and washing dishes by hand rather than in an automatic dishwasher.

Line-dry clothes whenever possible.

Close off unoccupied rooms and shut off their heat and air conditioning.

Clean or replace hot air heating system filters and air conditioner filters once a month.

Unplug quick-on TV sets when not in use; they consume electricity even when the screen is black. Turn power switch to the off position on audio equipment and video cassette recorders when not in use.

Use full loads in washers and dryers.

Keep chimney dampers closed, or block off fireplaces to stop heat from escaping.