



# Power Failure Preparedness

In today's technologically advanced society, we rely heavily on electricity to perform essential functions. Follow these tips for dealing with a possible power failure before, during, and after it occurs.

## Before a Power Failure:

- Get your Disaster-Supply Kit together and make a Family Emergency Communications Plan.
- Check flashlights and portable radios to ensure they are working.
- Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible, which can help power companies avoid rolling black-outs.
- If a storm is coming that may bring power outages, fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and any other devices in advance of a power outage.
- Fill containers with water and place them in a refrigerator or freezer. This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold during a power outage.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
- Make sure you have cash on hand, as ATMs may not work during a power outage.

## After a Power Failure:

- Throw out food that may have spoiled due to the refrigerator and/or freezer not working during the power outage.
- Use caution when going outside after a storm. Never touch a downed wire; always assume that downed wires are live.
- If the power outage was caused by extreme heat or a winter storm, check in on elderly or handicapped neighbors to make sure that they are OK.

## During a Power Failure:

- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting. Never use candles during a power outage due to the risk of fire.
- To report a power outage contact National Grid at 1-800-465-1212.
- Do not run a generator in a home or garage. Make sure that it is operating in a well-ventilated area.
- If it is hot outside:
  - ◇ In intense heat, when the power may be off for a long time, consider going to a public facility with air conditioning or a "cooling center" that may be open in your community.
  - ◇ If you remain at home, move to the lowest level of your home, since cool air falls.
  - ◇ Wear lightweight clothing.
  - ◇ Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- If it is cold outside:
  - ◇ Put on layers of warm clothing.
  - ◇ Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.
  - ◇ Never use your oven as a source of heat.
  - ◇ If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (the home of a relative or friend or a public facility) that has heat to keep warm.
- Do not travel unless necessary as traffic light may be out during a rolling blackout.