



## Power Outage

Power outages represent a significant disruption to daily life, occurring unexpectedly due to a variety of factors ranging from severe weather events and equipment failures to grid stress during peak demand.

The loss of electricity cascades into a series of potential challenges, immediately impacting essential services and infrastructure.



Critical systems like water treatment and distribution can be compromised, leading to shortages of potable water. Refrigeration fails, resulting in food spoilage and potential health risks. Furthermore, maintaining a safe and comfortable indoor environment becomes difficult, with heating and cooling systems rendered inoperable, exposing individuals to extreme temperatures. Given the potential for widespread and prolonged disruptions, proactive preparation for extended outages is paramount. This includes securing adequate supplies of food and water, developing contingency plans for maintaining personal comfort and safety, and ensuring access to alternative communication methods. Recognizing the potential severity of a power outage and preparing accordingly can significantly mitigate its impact and enhance resilience.

## Winter Storm Preparedness & Response

**Maintaining preparedness for all potential hazards is crucial.** This includes assembling an emergency supply kit and developing a family emergency plan. Stay informed about potential risks in your area.

### Understanding Outages:

- **Rolling Blackouts:** Temporary, localized power shortages implemented by utility companies during peak demand (typically summer, 4-7 PM) to manage energy consumption. Notifications are not always possible, and outages usually last about an hour.
- **Summer Blackouts:** Often caused by extreme heat, these outages eliminate cooling options like air conditioning.
- **Winter Blackouts:** Can lead to dangerously cold indoor temperatures.

### Preparation Steps:

- **Essential Supplies:** Flashlights, batteries, hand-crank/battery-powered radio/TV, non-perishable food, bottled water, cell phone charger.
- **Data Backup:** Regularly back up important computer files.
- **Emergency Kit & Plan:** Ensure you have a comprehensive emergency kit and a practiced family emergency plan.

### During a Power Outage:

- **Safety First:** Use flashlights instead of candles. Turn off electrical equipment.
- **Food Safety:** Discard food held above 40°F for more than 2 hours. Utilize coolers with ice for perishable items.
- **Water Safety:** Assume water is unsafe unless bottled, boiled, or treated with iodine and a filtration system.
- **Temperature Regulation:**

- **Hot Weather:** Stay hydrated (water every 15-20 minutes), wear light clothing, circulate air, and be alert for heat-related illness.
- **Cold Weather:** Dress in layers, stay active, and be aware of hypothermia (body temperature below 95°F).
- **Downed Power Lines:** Avoid contact. If a line falls on a vehicle, remain inside.
- **Carbon Monoxide:** *Never* use generators, grills, or pressure washers indoors or in enclosed spaces.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/power-outage>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/power-outage>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.**



**U.S. ARMY**