

Power Failures are the most common events that will affect your home or business.

- Keep flashlights, a battery operated radio and fresh batteries on hand.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full; gas stations use electricity to pump fuel.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer doors. Food will stay fresh for up to four hours after the power goes off. The power company may distribute dry ice during prolonged outages.
- Turn off computers, stereos, televisions and other appliances you were using when the power went off. Leave one light on so you know when power is restored.
- Protect your computer with a surge protector
- If you use a portable generator, operate it outside, **never indoors**. The generator should be directly connected to lights and appliances. If not, shut off the main breaker so the electricity doesn't feed back out to power lines.
- **In the winter:** Wear layers of dry clothes to avoid hypothermia. Don't heat the house with a gas range or charcoal.
 - If you use an alternate heating source such as a kerosene heater be sure to provide adequate ventilation, otherwise carbon monoxide poisoning could occur. Place the heater a safe distance from combustibles.
 - If you have municipal water, let water trickle from faucets to avoid frozen pipes.
 - Never thaw pipes with a torch.

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

PREPARE, PLAN & STAY INFORMED

Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit in advance that includes:

- At least one gallon of water for each person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation.
 - At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each household member. Replace food and water every six months. This includes food for infants and special diets.
 - Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
 - Flashlight and extra batteries.
 - Always keep a few extra days worth of necessary prescription medications on hand.
 - Plan on how you would communicate with different family members in various disaster situations and create a plan.
- Learn some safety skills:***
- Get trained in first aid and CPR
 - Learn how to use a fire extinguisher.

IF YOU NEED HELP DIAL 911

During any disaster, the most important thing you can do is stay informed.

Listen for emergency broadcasts and to local media outlets for public safety instructions and information.

Pay attention to the news. Know your local radio and television stations that can provide you with up-to-date information during an emergency. Make sure you know which of your stations are part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). These EAS stations are the primary outlets for official information on protective actions.

Learn about the types of emergencies or hazards that may affect your community.

Remember the special needs of your family members. Infants, the elderly, and persons with disabilities need the same planning as everyone else, and sometimes a little more, to be prepared for an emergency. Make plans now on what to do with your pet in the event you have to leave your home. Pets are not permitted in public shelters.