



PLANNING FOR UTILITY OUTAGES

Extreme weather and other emergencies can cause **extended power outages** or disrupt regular water service, **limiting access to clean drinking water**.

POWER OUTAGE TIPS

Power outages can impact the whole community disrupting communications, transportation and access to stores, ATMs, and gas stations. Considering the following tips:

- ✚ Keep **freezers and refrigerators closed**
- ✚ Use **generators outdoors** and at least **20 ft away** from doors, windows and vents.
- ✚ **Stay fire safe**. Do not use a gas stove to heat your home
- ✚ Unplug appliances and electronics to **avoid damage from electrical surges**
- ✚ Have an **alternate plan for refrigerating medicines** and powering medical devices
- ✚ If safe, go to an **alternate location** for heat or cooling
- ✚ Keep mobile phones and electronic **equipment charged** before a power outage

Figure 1. Image with power lines down, stove not functional, water faucet without water coming out, toilet not functional.



UTILITIES BACK UP PLAN

In case of utility outages, it is important to have backup solutions. Consider the following:

- ✚ **Alternate cooking:** If you have an electric stove and are experiencing a household power outage, an alternative option might be to use an outdoor grill. Plan to have fuel or charcoal and follow all safety recommendations.
- ✚ **Alternate water source:** Water service interruption will affect regular sanitation or use of toilets. Consider storing extra water and having a small bucket for toilet flushing and sanitation.
- ✚ **Alternate waste solutions:** If waste management services are interrupted after a disaster or incident, consider alternative solutions such as using kitty litter for waste absorption, camping sanitation supplies, or off-grid waste management methods.

WATER SAFETY

Store at least **1 gallon of water per person/ per day** for several days (recommended 7 days).

- ✚ **Water boiling** – It is the safest method of treating water. In a large pot or kettle, bring water to a rolling boil for one full minute. Let the water cool before drinking.
- ✚ **Water chlorination** – Add 1/8 teaspoon of liquid household bleach/ per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes.

For more resources, visit:

FEMA Power Outage Information Sheet (PDF): <https://fema-community-files.s3.amazonaws.com/hazard-information-sheets/Power+Outage-English.pdf>

Water Preparedness Ready.gov Water Information: <https://www.ready.gov/water>

Emergency Power Planning for People with Disabilities: Americans with Disabilities Act National Network
Emergency Power Planning Checklist (PDF):

https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Emergency%20Power%20Planning_final2018.pdf

Emergency Action Planning Emergency Toilet Guidebook (PDF):

<https://www.emergencyactionplanning.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Emergency-Toilet-Guidebook.pdf>

Assorted Animals Pet Hydration Calculator: <https://assortedanimals.com/pet-hydration-calculator/>