



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








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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 preparedness tips, visit:

fema-community-files.s3.amazonaws.com/hazard-information-sheets/Power+Outage-English.pdf;
[Water | Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov); Americans with Disability Act National Network check list for:
https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Emergency%20Power%20Planning_final2018.pdf
<https://www.emergencyactionplanning.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Emergency-Toilet-Guidebook.pdf>
<https://assortedanimals.com/pet-hydration-calculator/>;
<https://fema-community-files.s3.amazonaws.com/hazard-information-sheets/Power+Outage-English.pdf> ;