



## POWER OPERATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Depending on the nature of the emergency, the first important decision you will need to make is whether to **stay** or **go** and **have a plan for both possible scenarios**.

To make an informed decision, follow the official sources of information and monitor TV, radio and official emergency alerts coming to your cell phone.



If **staying at home** is the safest and best option, consider that you will need to have **supplies, medications and resources to SELF-SUSTAIN for at least 7 DAYS**.

Including **alternative solutions** if the utility services are impacted by the emergency or disaster.

Dangerous conditions might **stop** traveling: including **9-1-1, Public transportation or meal deliveries**

**Creating an emergency plan for power operated medical devices, consider the following 3 steps:**

- 💡 **Teach others how to use your equipment** and ensure they understand the contingency alternative power solutions.
- 💡 **Contact your utility provider** to talk about backup power options and keep a list of emergency power providers.
- 💡 **Find alternative power sources** and review your equipment's instructions

## EQUIPMENT USE

Battery dependent assistive technology and medical devices, **are equipment essential to your level of independence or vital to keeping you alive**. Some of these devices include: breathing machines (respirators, ventilators), power wheelchairs and scooters, oxygen, suction, or home dialysis equipment.

- ✚ Maintain **relevant information** about medical equipment organized in a waterproof bag that you can easily carry with you if you must evacuate. The information should include **medical device model, serial number, vendor information, and instructions manual on how to operate it**.
- ✚ Contact your insurance provider to see if you qualify for a **manual backup device** in case of a power outage or damage to your powered equipment.





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### TEXAS UTILITY COMMISSION RESOURCES



#### APPLICATION FOR CRITICAL CARE AND CHRONIC CARE REGISTRIES,

Available online at:

[www.puc.state.tx.us/industry/electric/forms/critical/ccform.pdf](http://www.puc.state.tx.us/industry/electric/forms/critical/ccform.pdf)

- The application must be emailed/faxed by your physician.
- Submission of this application **does not** automatically result in chronic condition or critical care status.
- Chronic conditions or critical care status **does not** guarantee an uninterrupted, regular, or continuous power supply.

The Texas Public Utility Commission Electric Outage Viewer is online at:

[www.puc.texas.gov/storm/map](http://www.puc.texas.gov/storm/map)

### POWER-BACKUP CHECKLIST AND SAFETY

**Ask a Professional**

**Follow safety recommendations**

**Use generators outdoors and at least **20 ft away** from building openings**

**PREVENT carbon monoxide poisoning**

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**During and after the emergency plan for having limited access to gas stations**

**Follow fuel storage guidelines**



For more recommendations on how to safely select and use power-backup visit:

- ✚ [Emergency Power Planning for People Who Use Electricity and Battery-Dependent Assistive Technology and Medical Devices | ADA National Network](#);
- ✚ <https://adata.org/factsheet/emergency-power>
- ✚ <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use.html> and <https://www.fema.gov/factsheet/use-generators-safely-home> or call your local Fire Department.