

POWER OUTAGE EMERGENCY PLAN

During a power outage

- First, check whether the power outage is limited to your home. If your neighbours' power is still on, check your own circuit breaker panel or fuse box. If the problem is not a breaker or a fuse, check the service wires leading to the house. If they are obviously damaged or on the ground, stay at least 10 meters back and notify your electric supply authority. Keep the number along with other emergency numbers near your telephone.
- If your neighbours' power is also out, notify your electric supply authority.
- Turn off all tools, appliances and electronic equipment, and turn the thermostat(s) for the home heating system down to minimum to prevent damage from a power surge when power is restored. Also, power can be restored more easily when there is not a heavy load on the electrical system.
- Turn off all lights, except one inside and one outside, so that both you and hydro crews outside know that power has been restored.
- Don't open your freezer or fridge unless it is absolutely necessary.
- A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours if the door remains closed.
- Never use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heating equipment, or home generators indoors. They give off carbon

monoxide. Because you can't smell or see it, carbon monoxide can cause health problems and is life-threatening.

- Use proper candle holders. Never leave lit candles unattended and keep out of reach of children. Always extinguish candles before going to bed.
- Listen to your battery-powered or wind-up radio for information on the outage and advice from authorities.

Tips:

- Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide detector. If it is hard-wired to the house's electrical supply, ensure it has a battery-powered back-up.
- Protect sensitive electrical appliances such as TVs, computer, and DVD players with a surge-protecting powerbar.

After the power returns

- Do not enter a flooded basement unless you are sure the power is disconnected.
- Do not use flooded appliances, electrical outlets, switch boxes or fuse-breaker panels until they have been checked and cleaned by a qualified electrician.
- Replace the furnace flue (if removed) and turn off the fuel to the standby heating unit.
- Switch on the main electric switch (before, check to ensure appliances, electric heaters, TVs, microwaves computers, etc. were unplugged to prevent damage from a power surge).
- Give the electrical system a chance to stabilize before reconnecting tools and appliances. Turn the heating-

system thermostats up first, followed in a couple of minutes by reconnection of the fridge and freezer. Wait 10 to 15 minutes before reconnecting all other tools and appliances.

- Close the drain valve in the basement.
- Turn on the water supply. Close lowest valves/taps first and allow air to escape from upper taps.
- Make sure that the hot water heater is filled before turning on the power to it.
- Check food supplies in refrigerators, freezers and cupboards for signs of spoilage. If a freezer door has been kept closed, food should stay frozen 24 to 36 hours, depending on the temperature. When food begins to defrost (usually after two days), it should be cooked; otherwise it should be thrown out.
- As a general precaution, keep a bag of ice cubes in the freezer. If you return home after a period of absence and the ice has melted and refrozen, there is a good chance that the food is spoiled. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Reset your clocks, automatic timers, and alarms.
- ***Restock your emergency kit so the supplies will be there when needed again.***

BASIC EMERGENCY KIT

You may have some of these basic emergency kit items already, such as a

flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry (in a suitcase with wheels or in a backpack) in case you need to evacuate your home. Whatever you do, don't wait for a disaster to happen.

Easy to carry – think of ways that you can pack your emergency kit so that you and those on your emergency plan can easily take the items with you, if necessary.

- Water – two litres of water per person per day (Include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order)
- Food – that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (remember to replace the food and water once a year)
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Special needs items – prescription medications, infant formula or equipment for people with disabilities

- Extra keys – for your car and house
- Cash – include smaller bills, such as \$10 bills (travelers cheques are also useful) and change for pay-phones
- Emergency plan – include a copy of it and ensure it contains in-town and out-of-town contact information

Additional emergency supplies

The basic emergency kit will help you get through the first 72 hours of an emergency. In addition to this kit, we recommend you also have the following additional emergency supplies. Then you will be well equipped for even the worst emergency situations.

- Change of clothing and footwear – for each household member
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket – for each household member
- A whistle – in case you need to attract attention
- Garbage bags – for personal sanitation
- Toilet paper and other personal care supplies
- Safety gloves
- Basic tools – hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, fasteners, work gloves
- Small fuel-driven stove and fuel – follow manufacturer's directions and store properly
- Two additional litres of water per person per day – for cooking and cleaning
- Copies of personal documents – such as passport and birth certificate
- Candles and matches or lighter

EMERGENCY CAR KIT

If you have a car, prepare an emergency car kit and keep it in the vehicle.

The basic emergency kit for cars should

include the following items:

- Food – that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- Water – in plastic bottles so they

won't break if frozen
(change every six months)

- Blanket
- Extra clothing and shoes
- First aid kit – with seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel,
- Scraper and snow-brush
- Candle in a deep can and matches
- Wind-up flashlight
- Whistle – in case you need to attract attention

- Road maps
- Copy of your emergency plan and personal documents

Also keep these inside your trunk:

- Sand, salt or non clumping cat litter
- Antifreeze/windshield washer fluid
- Tow rope
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning light or road flares