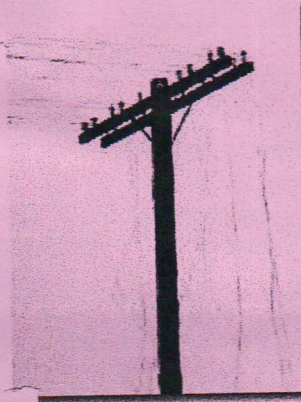

Power Outage

Power outages

are most commonly associated with summertime electrical storms, high wind events, and severe winter snow or ice storms. Intermittent power outages may even be caused by traffic accidents, fires, building or construction activities or regularly scheduled services



Before a power outage

- Fill plastic containers with water, leaving about an inch of space inside each one for the frozen water to expand
- Place the containers in the refrigerator and freezer
- This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold for several hours if the power goes out.
- Medication that requires refrigeration usually can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem
- Back up computer files and operating systems.
- Turn off and unplug major appliances and sensitive electric equipment until after power is restored.
- Purchase a high-quality surge protector for electronic equipment.
- Locate the manual release for your electric garage door opener and learn how to operate it.
- Keep a traditional, non-cordless telephone available or plan for alternate communication, including a cell phone, radio or pager
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half-full because gas stations rely on electricity to power the pumps.
- Make sure to have extra cash at home because equipment such as automated teller machines (ATMs) may not work during a power outage.

During a power outage

- Use a flashlight whenever possible rather than candles or kerosene lanterns, which are a fire hazard.
- Do not use your range or oven to heat your home as this can cause a fire or fatal gas leak.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Treat each signal as a stop sign if traffic signals are not working
- Do not call 911 to ask about the power outage.