

BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE

Before a power outage

- Make a safety plan for every member of your household, including pets. Identify a backup location where you can go and an emergency meeting spot.
- Plan for your medical needs, including medications that need to be refrigerated, and power-dependent devices. Talk to your doctor about what you should do about any medical devices.
- Keep a hard copy of emergency phone numbers, and identify a backup method for charging your cellphone.
- Make sure you know how to manually open your garage door.
- Have an emergency kit with food, water, a flashlight, batteries, a battery- or crank-powered radio, a charged cellphone, first aid, clothing, medications, cash, credit cards and important documents. Include toys, books and games for children, and have a fueled-up vehicle.
- Consider a backup power source, such as a generator, and make sure it's ready to operate safely.
- Identify multiple people who know how to operate your equipment and backup systems.

During an outage

- Unplug or turn off appliances, equipment and electronics to avoid damage from surges when power is restored.
- Leave a single lamp on so you'll know when power returns. When power is restored, turn on appliances one at a time.
- Consider using coolers with ice to keep food cold and safe. A refrigerator typically will keep food cold for about four hours, and a full freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours if doors to the appliances are kept closed.
- Check on your neighbors.
- Only use generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills outdoors. Don't use a gas stove for heat.
- Cell phones may still work but text messages will most likely go through easier as lines will be tied up with many callers.
- Remember – ATMs will not be working.
- Stay put and stay safe. Traffic lights will not be working and unless you have a medical emergency, stay off the roads until power is restored.