

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POWER OUTAGE

Having a plan of action and being prepared before a power outage occurs will increase your safety and ability to cope during an outage until the power is restored.

Power outage kit

Create a power outage kit and store it in an easily accessible place. Your kit should include: flashlights or battery-powered lanterns, bottled water (kept outside of the refrigerator to avoid opening the fridge), non-perishable snacks, important phone numbers (including the Community Management Office and local power company), battery-operated fans for warmer months, and blankets for cooler months.

Steps to take during an outage

- Turn off appliances that were in use before the power went out. If the appliance is plugged in, do not unplug it, in case the power surges and restores while you are holding the cord.
- Make important phone calls to the Community Management Office and local power company.
- Avoid opening your fridge or freezer to avoid food spoilage.

Food safety tips

- If you think you might lose power, turn down your freezer to its coldest setting ahead of time.
- This will make your food as cold as possible before the power is lost.
- A freezer that is half-full will hold food safely for up to 24hrs. A full freezer will keep food safe for up to 48hrs. Fill bottles or milk jugs with water and freeze. You'll have several blocks of ice to keep things cold as well as ice water on hand for a power or AC outage.
- Keep the freezer door closed and tape it shut. Habits are hard to break and the tape will keep family members from opening the door unnecessarily.
- If an outage lasts for days, use charcoal or propane grills to cook all the meat before it spoils.
- Drinking water is important and during a power outage, water purification systems may be compromised. When possible, drink bottled water. If you have a gas-powered stove, boil tap water before consuming.

