



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HANDLE A POWER OUTAGE

Good Hands® advice from your local Allstate agent to help you be prepared and informed.

Power outages can happen suddenly and durations are often unknown, so it's important to be prepared. In fact, the Government of Canada recommends households have a plan in place to manage for at least 72 hours*. Here's some good hands® advice to help you cope and respond during extended periods without power.

BEFORE A POWER OUTAGE

- **Build an emergency preparedness kit.**
- **Use surge protectors** for electronics and sensitive electrical equipment.
- **Label fuses and circuit breakers** in your main electricity box.
- **Install a backup generator**, wired to a transfer switch by a licensed electrician so it can be automatically switched on in the event of power loss.

DURING A POWER OUTAGE

- **Use only battery powered light options such as flashlights** – avoid lighting your home with candles.
- **Unplug major appliances** to avoid a power surge or drain once power returns.
- **Leave one light switch on** so you know when power is restored.
- **Keep fridge and freezer closed.** The food in a full packed freezer may last up to 48 hours; in a half packed freezer, 24 hours. However, in the winter weather, food could be stored outdoors in a sealed container if safe.
- In cold temperatures, **take proactive measures to prevent pipes from freezing** by turning off the main water line and draining your pipes by opening the taps and closing them once the water runs out. Also flush toilets to remove water from tanks. Especially if you are forced to evacuate due to a prolonged outage.
- **Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning** by using generators, grills, and similar items outdoors only.

AFTER A POWER OUTAGE

- **Turn the main breaker back on.**
- **Plug in only the most essential appliances first**, and wait 10 to 15 minutes to give the electrical system time to stabilize before re-connecting everything else.
- **Avoid fallen power lines outside.**
- **Check on neighbours and elders** and offer any help.

HOW TO KNOW IF A POWER OUTAGE HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY

If going away for a few days, leave a bag of ice cubes in your freezer. If you come back and it's clear the ice has melted and then refroze, a prolonged outage happened and you should throw out the food.

For more information and safety tips, visit allstate.ca/learningcentre, contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

*Government of Canada – <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/pwrtgs-eng.aspx>