

What To Do Before, During and After a Power Outage

BEFORE THE BLACKOUT

Conserve energy:

- When home, set your thermostat at 78 degrees during the summer, 68 degrees during the winter
- Do not use large appliances such as air conditioners, pool pumps, clothes washers and electric dryers during peak times
- Peak winter hours: 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Peak summer hours: noon to 6 p.m.
- Close drapes and blinds to keep heat/cold out
- Weatherstrip doors and windows
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Limit decorative lighting

BE PREPARED

Have flashlights, radios and clocks, with extra batteries
People with special medical needs or equipment should be ready for electric outages
If you have a generator, read the directions and know how to operate it safely
Plan ahead with your neighborhood watch group
Know how to operate your garage door without electricity
Have a non-cordless telephone in case of an electric outage
Have a working, non-electric smoke detector (battery powered)
Use stairs, instead of elevators, during outages

DURING A BLACKOUT

Do

Stay calm
Use flashlights or light sticks for lighting
Turn off all appliances
Turn off all but one light switch
Listen to the radio for information
Check on those with medical needs
Drive carefully: traffic signals may be out

Do Not

Do not call 911 due to a power outage
The following are extreme fire hazards:
Do not use candles for lighting
Do not use oven for heating
Do not use barbecue indoors for heating
Do not use barbecue indoors for cooking
Do not use propane indoors

AFTER A BLACKOUT

Continue to conserve energy
Reset all electrical equipment safely
Continue to drive safely: power may be out in other areas