

When outside, stay away from downed power lines:

- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized, even if it's sagging close to or on the ground, and other utility lines can also become energized by being in contact with an electrical line.
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.
- If you plan to use a generator, know how to operate it safely

Assembling supplies and knowing how to stay warm safely are keys to weathering a winter storm emergency:

- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, and a supply of fresh batteries on-hand in case of an emergency.
- Know where to find extra blankets.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. It's a good idea to have one gallon of water, per person, per day. You should plan for a three-day supply.
- Have hand sanitizer and a first aid kit available
- Keep a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food. Consider items such as high-energy foods (protein bars, breakfast bars, fresh fruit, etc) along with canned items.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Check on elderly or disabled friends and neighbors.
- Never use a charcoal grill to cook or heat with inside the home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time that includes needed items. Don't forget to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- If you have a screened-in porch or a covered patio near a door, consider placing some perishable items there for easy access. Items stored in a full freezer should stay frozen, if the freezer remains closed, for up to two days without power. Refrigerators will keep items cold for about four hours once power goes out.
- Be sure to fill prescriptions and have any needed medical supplies on hand BEFORE a storm hits.

- Make sure cell phones and laptop computers, DVD players, etc, are charged ahead of time. Consider using them only to update family and friends on conditions, and to check the weather or road conditions. Put together some items to help pass the time – go through old photo albums or scrapbooks, assemble puzzles, play card or board games, read a book!

Maintaining warmth is a priority. Loss of body heat or hypothermia can be life threatening.

- Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms, and stuff blankets under doors
- Keep curtains and blinds closed, except in rooms facing south and when the sun is shining. In rooms that are closed off during the storm, keep curtains and blinds closed all the time.

When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate

These and other tips can be found at the following resources:

- www.redcross.org
- www.SafeElectricity.org
- www.weather.com