

Here are some safety checks you should do during a power outage:

Before the power goes out:

- **Have a plan:** Make sure you and your family know what to do in case of a power outage. This includes having a meeting place outside your home and knowing how to contact each other.
- **Assemble an emergency kit:** This should include food, water, first-aid supplies, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, and a can opener.
- **Charge your devices:** Make sure your phone, laptop, and other essential devices are fully charged before the power goes out.
- **Turn off and unplug appliances:** This will help to prevent damage from power surges when the power comes back on.

During the power outage:

- **Stay informed:** Listen to the radio or check online for updates on the outage.
- **Use flashlights:** Do not use candles, as they can be a fire hazard.
- **Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed:** This will help to keep food cold for as long as possible. A full freezer will keep food safe for up to 48 hours; a full refrigerator will keep food safe for about 4 hours.
- **Dress warmly:** If it's cold outside, dress in layers to stay warm.
- **Stay connected:** Use your phone or a battery-powered radio to stay connected with family and friends.
- **Do not use generators indoors:** Generators produce carbon monoxide, which can be deadly. Only use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors.

After the power comes back on:

- **Check for damage:** Look for any damage to your home or appliances before turning them on.
- **Turn on appliances one at a time:** This will help to prevent overloading the circuits.
- **Throw away any spoiled food:** Food that has been at room temperature for more than 4 hours should be thrown away.

Here are some additional tips for staying safe during a power outage:

- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Downed power lines and flooded areas can be dangerous. Stay away from them and report them to the authorities.
- **Check on your neighbors:** If you have elderly or disabled neighbors, check on them to make sure they are safe.
- **Be patient:** It may take some time for the power to be restored.

We hope these tips help you stay safe during a power outage.



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