When the power goes out

Keep this sheet beside a flashlight. Leave early for a safe location if your home cannot meet medical, heating or cooling needs.

BEFORE

[ ] Charge phones and power banks. [ ] Locate flashlights and batteries.
[ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. [ ] Write utility outage number.
[ ] Plan backup power with your medical-equipment provider.
[ ] Identify a safe alternate location and transportation.

FIRST STEPS

[ ] Check household members and animals. Use flashlights instead of candles.
[ ] Check official alerts and report the outage. Keep fridge/freezer doors closed.
[ ] Unplug sensitive electronics; leave one light on to signal restored power.
[ ] Keep away from downed lines and flooded electrical equipment.

GENERATOR + FUEL SAFETY

Run portable generators outdoors, at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents, with exhaust directed away. Never use in a home, garage or carport. Never use grills, camp stoves or a gas oven to heat indoors. Do not backfeed a wall outlet. Use a qualified electrician for a transfer switch. Let equipment cool before refueling.

FOOD + TEMPERATURE

With doors closed, a refrigerator generally keeps food safe about 4 hours; a full freezer about 48 hours, half-full about 24. Use a thermometer. Discard refrigerated perishables after 4 hours without power or another safe cold source. Never taste food to test safety. Follow official food-safety guidance for exceptions.

WRITE IT DOWN

Power lost at: _____ Utility phone: _____
Alternate location: _____ Ride/contact: _____
Medical power runtime: _____ Leave-by trigger: _____

References: ready.gov/kit | ready.gov/pets | cdc.gov/food-safety