



# How to Be Prepared FOR AN OUTAGE

## BEFORE an outage .....

- Keep an emergency kit handy with flashlights, batteries, candles, extra firewood and matches.
- Have an updated First Aid Kit, a supply of bottled water and non-perishable foods.
- Keep your cell phone charged and a battery-powered or crank radio nearby.
- Make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector equipped with a battery back up.
- Protect your home by trimming dead branches that may fall during a storm.
- Use a surge protector to protect your electronic items like computers, TVs, and stereo equipment.

## DURING an outage .....

- Turn off all light switches, except one, to let you know when the outage ends.
- Turn off ALL appliances, both kitchen and entertainment, with the exception of your fridge and freezer (keep the doors closed to keep them cool).
- Turn your thermostats low and keep warm with blankets and multiple layers.
- Keep a few taps slightly open to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Listen to your local radio stations for the latest updates.
- Report downed power lines and stay well away.

- Check on friends and neighbours—and offer help if they need it.
- ✘ Don't use any propane appliances inside—the fumes can be toxic.
- ✘ Don't approach or touch any fallen power lines.
- ✘ Don't leave candles unattended and use proper candle holders.
- ✘ Never use a generator indoors, only in well-ventilated areas to avoid the exhaust.
- ✘ Do not go near areas of standing water, like a flooded basement.

## AFTER an outage .....

- Turn on your most essential equipment first.
- Wait at least 15 minutes before turning up thermostats and plugging in appliances.
- Check your fridge and freezer, especially any frozen goods, to see if there's been any thawing and spoilage. Generally, food will keep for 24 to 48 hours, as long you keep the door closed. Throw out thawed food that has been at temperatures over 4°C for more than two hours.
- Make sure the hot water heater is full before turning the power on, otherwise it could damage the heating elements.
- Restock your emergency supply kit.

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