



Scenario 10: Power Outage Answer Key

1. At the very minimum, your family emergency kit should include the following items: water (one gallon per person, per day) and/or water purification tablets, a first-aid kit, a flashlight, batteries, a hand-crank/solar powered radio, nonperishable food, medications/prescription glasses, baby food, formula, diapers, cash (in small denominations), a wrench (to turn off utilities), hand sanitizer, a Mylar blanket, ear plugs, and a book and/or deck of cards. Consider having a kit for your pet(s), if applicable. Additionally, consider including portable charging devices in your kit as this will allow you to charge from a motor vehicle. If using a motor vehicle to charge devices, do **not** run it in a closed space such as a garage.
2. Generators may help to ensure that the mechanical devices in your home will function in the event of a power outage. While beneficial, the provided safety guidelines must always be followed
 - The generator must always be positioned outside the structure, as generator use is a major cause of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Information about the dangers of carbon monoxide may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/carbonmonoxide.html>
 - If water has been present anywhere near electrical circuits and electrical equipment, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel.
 - Do not turn the power back on until equipment has been inspected by a qualified electrician.
3. A loss of power in your home will cause these devices to stop operating. To keep these devices running, consider installing a generator adjacent to the exterior of your home. Additional measures include:
 - Refraining from using candles for light or warmth; doing so could lead to a fire.
 - Keep refrigerator doors closed. Many will keep food safely refrigerated for several hours after a power outage. More information about food safety following a power outage may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/facts.html>.
 - Consider spending the day in a public venue, such as a shopping center or movie theater, preferably in an area that wasn't impacted, which will likely be climate-controlled. Also consider having a backup plan for your home devices. More information about this is available at: <https://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/IT>
 - **NEVER** use your stove to heat your entire house during a power outage. This is extremely dangerous and can lead to fires or breathing problems.
4. If you have the connectivity to do so, check your local or state emergency management website or social media channels for locations of cooling or warming stations, or call their public information line (get that number now when there isn't an emergency!). You can also listen to public service announcements on a battery-powered radio.
5. The following steps should be taken to avoid injuries during the outage:
 - Check with local authorities ensure your water is potable.
 - In hot weather, stay cool and drink plenty of fluids to prevent heat-related illness.
 - In cold weather, wear layers of clothing to maintain your body heat.
 - Avoid downed power lines. If a power line falls on a car, you should stay inside the vehicle.
 - For more information on how to avoid injury during a power outage, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/needtoknow.html>
6. This may include having items and services in place *before* it becomes necessary to go to a shelter. If a loved one is comforted by a certain item (a blanket, photograph, stuffed animal, etc.), be sure to pack the item when evacuating. If a relative requires regularly scheduled mental health therapy, make sure that his/her mental health provider is aware of the location of the shelter.



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7. During or after a blackout, especially in the summertime, it is extremely important to monitor the temperatures of refrigerated foods. Throw out any food that have been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for 2+ hours or that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. Additionally, if the power is out for over 24 hours, discard any medications that require refrigeration unless the label says otherwise. If a loved one's life depends on these medications, immediately consult their doctor or pharmacist and use medicine only until a new supply is available to them.