

Are You Ready for a Power Outage?



What should people do if a power outage lasts longer than two days? Plan ahead. Be prepared. When making a disaster preparedness plan and when preparing disaster kits, have enough supplies, food and bottled water/drinks to sustain everyone in the household for at least 72 hours. Know that power outages can happen at any time. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural disasters and home emergencies before they're left in the dark.

- ✓ **Assemble an essential supplies kit.** Include a flashlight, batteries, portable radio, and bottled water (at least one gallon per person per day for approximately three days), and a small supply of non-perishable food. Due to extreme risk of fire, do not use candles during a power outage.
- ✓ **Secure appliances and equipment against power loss.** Have a phone with a handset that does not require electricity as cordless phones do. Purchase a high-quality surge protector for your computer equipment. If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to open your garage door manually.
- ✓ **Conserve vital resources.** Maintain at least a half-tank of gas in your vehicle at all times, because gasoline pumps require electricity. Keep electricity use as low as possible.
- ✓ **Consult with professionals.** Seek expert assistance from a licensed professional if you are considering purchasing a generator. If a member of your household has a disability that requires power-dependent equipment, register with your power company so they can provide appropriate assistance when necessary.