

# HOME EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- **PREPARE AHEAD**

- Make a plan
- Talk with family
- Shelter heating
- Medicines that need refrigeration
- Other electrical must-haves as determined by your family
- Batteries on hand with reliable flashlights
- How will you receive alerts?
- Land line phones will likely work
- Have fuel in safe place
  - Propane
  - Gasoline (careful, small quantities only in approved containers)

- **WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT**

- Keep fridge and freezer doors shut tight
- Unplug electronics to protect against power surges
- Use candles in safe places
- Your outdoor grill can be used for cooking
- Gas stoves will continue to work
- Fireplaces for heat, but you will have no blowers
- Notify neighbors and check on them
- DO NOT
  - use gas stove to heat home
  - use camping gear with propane or other fuels inside
  - use gas generator inside or near a window
- If power outage is prolonged in cold weather, find other lodging

- **AFTER THE POWER COMES BACK ON**

- If prolonged, throw out food and medicines appropriately
  - “When in doubt, throw it out.”
- Re-plug in electrical devices
- Reset timers as needed

Good website references

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://dem.utah.gov/>

## **Power Outage Preparedness**

### ***Needs***

- Light
- Heat
- Cooking

### ***Safety***

- **DO NOT** use propane heat or grills in house
- Store propane or gasoline outdoors, preferably away from house
- Do not touch downed electrical lines

### ***Resources***

- See list below
- Land lines work
- Gas fireplaces can provide limited heat
- Outdoor gas grills for cooking
  - If house gets too cold, have a relative or friend in another area who could put you up for a night or two

## Mitigations against Power Outages

### **Solar with battery storage**

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- Limited usefulness in snowy or overcast conditions

\$15,000 - \$40,000

### **Gas-powered generator**

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- Need transfer switch from electrician
- Need gasoline on hand – stored away from house
- Need pad outside to set it on
- Expensive per hour to run, but worth it for short-term benefit

\$1,100 - \$3,000

### **Outdoor grills**

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- Great for summer cookouts, too
- Best to have two propane tanks

\$300 - \$1,000

### **Flashlights**

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- Have multiple on-hand
  - Modern LEDs last longer
- Keep packs of right-sized batteries
  - Check batteries yearly for leakage

\$10 - \$50

### **Candles**

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- Ancient, but still-workable solution
- Keep multiple on-hand
- Use in places where kids cannot knock them over

\$10 - \$50

## Other Resources

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- Portable radio
- Solar-charged lamps
- You will have hot water in tanks
  - Tankless water heaters need electricity - sorry
- Keep gasoline in your cars, especially in winter