# Power outage checklist

Ready.gov recommends supplies for several days. Build a 3-day kit first. Where storms can keep the power off longer, some state agencies ask for 7 days or more. Review your kit every year.

## WATER

- ☐ **1 gallon per person per day**, for drinking and sanitation. A household of 4 needs about 12 gallons for 3 days and 28 gallons for 7 days.
- ☐ Extra water for pets and for anyone who needs more.
- ☐ Clean containers you can refill, and a plan to treat water if the supply is interrupted.

## FOOD

- ☐ Non-perishable food your household already eats that needs little or no cooking.
- ☐ A manual can opener.
- ☐ Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed. A refrigerator keeps food cold for **about 4 hours**; a full freezer for **about 48 hours**.
- ☐ A thermometer. Throw out food that has reached **40 °F**.

## MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES

- ☐ An emergency supply of medications. Ask your doctor or pharmacist how much to keep.
- ☐ Ask how long refrigerated medicines can stay at higher temperatures.
- ☐ Oxygen concentrator, CPAP or other powered device: a **written backup plan** from the provider, the device's actual watts, and whether the maker allows battery use.
- ☐ Extra charged batteries for a power wheelchair or other battery-operated assistive device.
- ☐ Ask your electric utility about a **priority restoration list**, and your local emergency management office whether it keeps a **registry** of residents who may need help.

## LIGHT, RADIO AND COMMUNICATION

- ☐ A flashlight for each person, plus extra batteries.
- ☐ A battery-powered or hand-crank radio, ideally a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- ☐ Phone chargers and a backup battery.
- ☐ A written list of important phone numbers.
- ☐ A meeting point and an out-of-area contact everyone knows.

## POWER AND SAFETY

- ☐ List what needs power: the **watts** each device uses and the **hours** a day you need it.
- ☐ Battery or power station: watts (W) limit what can run at once; watt-hours (Wh) are the energy it holds. Keep it charged.
- ☐ For longer outages, a way to recharge: solar panels, a vehicle charger or a generator.
- ☐ Generators **outdoors only**, at least **20 feet** from windows, doors and attached garages. Let it cool before refueling.
- ☐ Battery-operated **carbon monoxide detectors** on every level of the home.
- ☐ Never heat your home with a gas stove or oven.
- ☐ **Never** connect a generator or power station to home wiring through an outlet; that needs a transfer switch or inlet installed by a licensed electrician.
- ☐ Unplug appliances and electronics: power can return with damaging surges.

## DOCUMENTS AND CASH

- ☐ Copies of ID, insurance and medical information in a waterproof bag, and some cash in small bills.

## LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency management office _____

Electric utility, outages _____

Doctor / pharmacy _____

Medical equipment provider _____

Cooling or warming location _____

Out-of-area contact _____

Meeting point _____

Other _____