

When the lights go out.



An Emergency Preparedness Program for the Philadelphia Region

Preparation is power. *Are you ready?*

Severe storms or region-wide emergencies can, and do, happen. When outages occur, there are some important steps to take to keep your family safe until power is restored.

Prepare **NOW**:

- Keep a flashlight with extra batteries on each floor of your home.
- Have a battery-operated clock and radio.
- Store a supply of bottled water for each member of your household.
- Stock easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods.
- Protect sensitive electronic appliances, like microwave ovens, televisions and computers, with a voltage surge suppressor.
- If someone has a medical condition, plans should be made for alternate sources of power or alternate accommodations in the event of an extended power outage.

Stay **safe**:

- Avoid using candles. If you do use candles, never leave them unattended.
- Take cover if necessary.
- If outside, be aware of trees and downed wires.
- Do not touch or try to move downed lines.
- Consider all downed lines as energized and extremely dangerous.
- Report any downed lines to PECO immediately.
- If you are in your vehicle and power lines fall on it, stay in your car until emergency personnel can assist you. The car can become energized.

If your home is **flooded**:

- Contact PECO immediately.
- Stay out of standing water.
- Don't attempt to re-ignite a pilot light.
- Leave the area and don't turn on lights or strike a match.

PECO Customer Service: 1-800-494-4000
PECO Emergency Hotline: 1-800-841-4141

If the **lights** go out:

- Call PECO as soon as possible. Turn off and unplug most appliances to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored.
- Keep a couple of lights on so you'll know when service is back on.
- Move meats, cheese, milk and other foods into the freezer compartment since it will stay colder longer. If the freezer is partially full, it can keep food frozen for up to 24 hours and up to 48 hours when full.
- Fill the freezer and refrigerator with bottles of water to take up space.
- Wrap the refrigerator and freezer in a blanket to keep them insulated and to preserve foods.

If you use **dry ice**:

- Dry ice, available at some retail stores, presents safety concerns. But, it can be used to preserve frozen foods for longer than 24 hours.
- Dry ice is a hazardous material and must be handled with care. It can cause severe burns.
- Food that touches dry ice can get freezer burns.
- Dry ice should not be used in a small cooler with food or medicines that are needed and could become frozen.
- PECO cannot supply dry ice during weather-related events.

If you use a **generator**:

- Use it safely and responsibly.
- Use the manufacturer's power cords.
- Do not connect a generator to your home's wiring.
- Don't overload a generator.
- Never operate a generator in an enclosed space.
- Turn off all connected equipment before shutting down a generator.



Or Not?

What to have in your Head, Home and Hand

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What to have in your Head:

Talk with your family about how to handle emergencies. Be ready to **Shelter in Place** for at least 72 hours. Be ready to evacuate, if officials instruct you.

Decide on emergency meeting places – one close to your home and one outside your neighborhood.

Ask a friend or relative out of state to act as your family's emergency contact. If Philadelphia phone circuits are busy, long distance calls may be easier to make.

Plan for everyone – especially seniors, the disabled and non-English speakers.

Give everyone in your house a copy of your emergency plan and emergency contact information.

Twice a year check:

- Smoke alarm batteries
- Emergency plan and contact information
- Food and batteries in your emergency kits.

Sign Up for ReadyNotifyPA

to receive emergency text or email alerts.

Visit ReadyNotifyPA.org or text **PHILA** to **411911**

What to have in your Home:

Put together **Shelter in Place** kit with enough supplies for three days. Include:

- Three gallons of drinking water per person.
- Non-perishable foods
- Manual can opener and eating utensils
- Plastic sheeting to cover windows; scissors and duct tape
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries
- A whistle to signal for help
- Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach and an eyedropper (If directed disinfect water by adding eight drops of bleach per gallon of water.)
- Personal/child care items
- Non-electric phone

To Shelter in Place:

- Stay calm and go indoors
- Go to a room with few doors or windows, above street level, access to water and bathroom, a phone jack
- Close and lock all doors, windows and fireplace dampers
- Only seal doors and windows when told to
- Turn off all heating and cooling systems
- Listen to KYW 1060 AM
- Keep your pets with you
- Call 9-1-1 for an emergency

What to have in your Hand:

Prepare a **Go Bag** for your household. Include:

- Copies of important documents
- Extra set of keys
- Credit and ATM cards
- Cash in small bills
- Bottled water and non-perishable food
- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries
- Medication and copies of prescriptions
- First-aid kit
- Comfortable shoes, lightweight rain gear and a blanket
- Emergency contact and meeting place information
- Small regional map
- Personal/child care items

To Evacuate:

- Stay calm and follow official directions
- Secure your home
- Let friends and relatives know where you are going
- Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and a long sleeve shirt.
- DO NOT use elevators
- Listen to KYW 1060 AM
- Get to nearest shelter or safe place ASAP.

For more information on Emergency Preparedness, visit www.phila.gov/ready or call 1-877-READY-11.