



THE
CONCORD GROUP
INSURANCE COMPANIES

Tips

Power Outage Safety



Being prepared is the key

Summer or winter, power outages are not only inconvenient, there are safety concerns as well. However, if you are prepared, you'll minimize the safety hazards and your inconvenience.

Use these reminders to prepare in case the lights go out:

- If you have space in your refrigerator and freezer, consider filling plastic containers with water, leaving an inch at the top for expansion when frozen. If the power goes out, the chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold longer.
- Keep your vehicle fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps. Drive only if necessary as traffic signals will stop working, creating congestion.
- Keep battery operated lanterns, safety glow sticks and flashlights easily accessible. They are much safer than candles for light.
- Never use your oven as a heat source. If you do not have alternative heat, make plans to go to another location (relative, friend or public facility) to keep warm.
- Prepare a power outage emergency kit with flashlight, radio, extra batteries, at least one gallon of water and some canned and/or dry food goods, enough to last three days.
- If you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist for guidance on proper storage during an extended power outage.
- Keep your computer files backed up regularly. During the outage, unplug computers, stereos, televisions and other electronics. This will protect them from a possible power surge when the power comes back on.

More ways you can protect your possessions

Visit our website www.concordgroupinsurance.com for more important safety information, leading causes of house fires and ways you can protect your possessions and save money.



Generators

Before you install a generator, get advice from a licensed professional, such as an electrician.

- Make sure the generator is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories or similar organization.
- Never operate the generator inside, including the basement or garage.
- To be safe, you should have a professional install the transfer switch.
- Be sure you don't exceed the rated capacity listed on the generator. With a 4,000 to 5,000 watt generator, you can typically run a sump pump, refrigerator, furnace fan and several lights.
- Don't store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Avoid getting burned. While running, parts of a generator can get hot enough to burn you.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home.