

At-A-Glance

Power Outages

- Be prepared! Power outages can happen anywhere, and to anyone, so being prepared is important.
- If advised to evacuate your home by emergency officials, evacuate immediately.



Before a Power Outage...

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications Plan.
- To report a Power Outage, call Cleveland Public Power at 216-664-3156 or First Energy at 1-888-544-4877 or report it online. Before calling, check your main switch or circuit breaker in your house.
- It is good practice to have a corded telephone that works without electricity.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Never run a generator inside a home or garage. If using a generator, run it outside and connect the equipment directly to the outlets on the generator. Never attempt to connect a portable generator to an entire home's electrical system.

Did you know?

The biggest power outage in US history occurred on August 14, 2003 leaving roughly 50 million people without power.

For additional information on power outages, go to www.ready.gov.

During a power outage...

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment (like air conditioners) or electronics in use when the power went out. Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage computers as well as motors in appliances like the air conditioner, refrigerator, washer or furnace.
- Use only flashlights for emergency lighting. NEVER use candles during a blackout or power outage due to extreme risk of fire.

After a power outage...

- Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria causing food-borne illnesses can start growing quickly.
- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
P: 216-443-5700 | ema@cuyahogacounty.us

