

Hazard Help Sheet
Power Outages

When the lights go out . . .

Everyone experiences power interruptions from time to time. In Akwesasne, they are as common as a cold. Many of these outages come at all types of weather extremes or accompany various disasters. When the power is out, safety becomes a major concern. The following information is meant to help you when the lights go out.

Hydro Québec

Cornwall Electric
A FORTIS ONTARIO Company



- Have an alternate heat source and supply of fuel.
- Consider purchasing a generator, especially if someone in the house requires life-sustaining equipment that runs on electricity.
- Register life sustaining and medical equipment with your utility company.
- When installing generators, follow the manufacturers' instructions very carefully.
- If your house is the only one without power, check your fuse box or circuit breaker panel. Turn off all appliances before replacing fuses or resetting circuits.
- If power is out in the neighborhood, disconnect all electrical heaters and appliances to reduce the initial demand and protect the motors from possible low voltage damage.
- Unplug computers and other voltage-sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges when the power is restored.
- Conserve water, especially if you are on a well.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. If the door remains closed, a fully loaded freezer can keep foods frozen for two days.
- Never use a barbeque inside the home.
- If you use candles for light, keep in mind they can cause a fire. It's far better to use a battery-operated flashlight or glow sticks for alternate lighting.
- If you use a kerosene heater, gas lantern or stove inside the house, maintain ventilation to avoid a build-up of toxic fumes.
- If your power is out, leave a light switch in the 'on' position to alert you when services are restored.
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open the door without power.
- Prepare a power outage kit and make it a part of your disaster preparedness kit. Consider having light sticks, flashlights, a battery-powered radio with extra batteries and a wind-up clock as part of your kit.
- Have a corded (landline) telephone available. Remember that cordless phones will not work when the power is out.

For more information go to
www.ec.gc.ca

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