

# Power Outage Tips

## Reduce the inconvenience, be prepared

Before your electricity goes out, some preparation will help reduce the inconvenience. Here are some tips to follow:

- If you have a computer, it's a good idea to save your work before any outage.
- Turn off and unplug all electrical equipment, especially sensitive electronics. Leave one light bulb turned on to signal that power has been restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting and leave the refrigerator closed. Food will stay fresher longer if the power goes out. After power is restored, check all frozen foods to determine the extent of thawing. Dispose of any food that is discolored or smells spoiled. If power is off for more than one day, have an ice chest available to store needed medications that must remain cold. Have "blue Ice" freezer packs ready for the ice chest to keep your medication cold.
- Lower the thermostat during cold weather to protect motor.
- Do not use a natural gas range or burn charcoal for heat. Both fuels give off dangerous fumes. If a fireplace or kerosene space heater is used, open a window for ventilation. Otherwise, there is a real danger of death from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If you use electricity for your water, such as a well with an electric pump, have enough water available to last a couple of days. You should have at least a gallon of drinking water a day for each person in your house for drinking and cooking.
- For homes with automatic garage door openers, be sure you know how to operate it manually (refer to your product manual).
- Use flashlights. Don't use candles, which if used improperly, can start fires.
- Never barbecue or use charcoal briquettes to cook or heat food indoors because it can produce a build-up of carbon monoxide which can be deadly.
- Never plug portable or auxiliary generators into a wall outlet. The electricity generated by a generator can ruin your home's wiring and start a fire. It will also feed back into the utility system and seriously injure or kill a utility line crew. Portable generators are gasoline-powered and should always be placed in a well-ventilated area. Use an indoor/outdoor, grounded (three-prong) extension cord to connect your generator to an appliance.

For more information, call 253-502-8377 or visit [www.tacomapower.com](http://www.tacomapower.com).