

GET READY! Kent County Twelve Month Citizen Preparedness Program Fact Sheet

FEBRUARY: LIFE WITHOUT POWER

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere.

When disaster strikes, it is easier to cope when you are prepared.

GET READY! Kent County recommends knowing what to do when the power goes out.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO HAVE WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

- Flashlight (*due to the risk of fire, do not use candles*)
- Batteries
- Portable Radio
- At least one gallon of water per person
- A small supply of food

ACTION STEPS TO TAKE IN PREPARATION FOR A POWER OUTAGE

- Backup computer files and operating systems regularly.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual release lever and learn how to use it.
- Have at least one phone that is not powered by electricity (an old rotary phone, for example). Cordless phones may not work if the main base is electric.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

WHAT TO DO DURING A BLACKOUT

- Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out.
- Leave one light turned on so you know when the power returns.
- Leave the doors of the refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible.
- Use the phone for emergencies only.
- Listen to a portable radio for the latest information. Do not call 911 for information.
- If it is hot outdoors, take steps to remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home as cool air falls. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- If it is cool outdoors, put on layers of warm clothing.
- Remember to provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets.

