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HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POWER OUTAGE CAUSED BY A STORM

It may be true that April showers bring May flowers, but storms can also bring heavy winds that can knock down power lines. Here are a few tips to help make sure you are prepared for a power outage:

- Make sure you have a flashlight at home. Flashlights should be used instead of candles as an alternative light source to prevent the risk of fire. Remember to keep an extra supply of batteries on hand to ensure flashlights will work.
- Obtain a portable radio for emergencies. You will not be able to use your TV or home computer without power. A portable radio can keep you informed on weather and safety conditions during a storm and can be easily stored when it is not needed.
- Always keep your cellphone charged so you can make calls in the event of an emergency.
- Store a supply of water and non-perishable food items (e.g., canned foods, granola bars). Remember a can opener! Food in your refrigerator or freezer can go bad depending on how long the power is out.
- Keep a cooler and a supply of ice to help you save perishable food items. (Note: During a power outage, only open your refrigerator and freezer if it is absolutely necessary. Keeping the doors shut can help preserve food for a longer period of time. Moving food to a cooler full of ice can help keep it safe. If food in your refrigerator is over 40° F, do not eat it! If you are unsure if something is safe to consume, throw it away.)
- Keep a stocked first aid kit and an extra supply of blankets.

Courtesy of Western National Insurance

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