



Scenario Ten: Power Outages

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

Scenario: You and your loved ones are sitting down at the dinner table when suddenly the lights flicker, and the power goes out. Stepping outside, you realize that the entire neighborhood has lost power. Your cell phone is still half-charged, so you check social media. You see that many of your friends in surrounding towns are also experiencing the power outage. It’s summer, and despite the sun going down, the temperature and humidity remain high. The power company issues a statement, saying that a “software glitch” has caused the outage and that they can’t estimate when power will be restored.

Discussion Questions:

1. What supplies do you have in your family emergency kit? Does your kit include extra batteries and spare charging devices for your cell phones, for use in your home and car?
2. Do you have a generator? If so, review and discuss proper installation, placement and use of the generator with your loved ones, with emphasis on carbon monoxide safety.
3. How will the power outage affect important devices in your home? Think of your refrigerator, garage door, alarm system, medical devices, etc.
4. Where can you find information on cooling stations that have been set up in your town?
5. What steps should you and your family take to avoid injuries during the outage?
6. Does anyone in your family have any special needs (such as medical, emotional or physical needs, or limited English proficiency) that might present challenges if you had to stay at a shelter? If so, have you prepared a special plan for them?
7. How might you address medication needs or foods that are reliant on temperature?

Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, please visit: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>. Discuss with your loved ones what steps you think you should take to improve your safety in the event a power outage occurs.

Helpful Links: To learn more about preparedness before, during and after a power outage, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/index.html>