



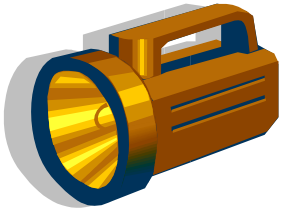
COMMACK VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS  
POWER FAILURE TIPS

Power failures are fairly uncommon these days; however when they occur they can be at best inconvenient and at worst dangerous. Knowing what to do in the event of a power outage and how to prepare for one is very important.

Preparing for a blackout:

**ASSEMBLE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING:**

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Portable radio
- At least one gallon of bottled water
- A small supply of non-perishable foods
- A small supply of emergency funds since ATMs require electric to function
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power pumps
- If you have a serious medical consideration such as home ventilator, oxygen concentrator, or dialysis equipment consider purchasing a gas powered generator for such events
- Have reserve oxygen tanks in case of concentrator battery failures



**KNOW:**

- Your power company emergency number and have it easily accessible
- How to work the manual release of your electric garage door opener
- Hospitals only operate essential equipment during power failures. Hospitals are not air conditioned in these situations. Seeking refuge at a hospital is not a viable option.
- Telephone units that require electricity won't work. Have a standard telephone set ready to plug in
- Keep computer files and operating systems backed-up regularly.
- Never to run a generator inside the home



## **IN THE EVENT OF A POWER FAILURE:**

- Stay calm.
- Monitor local radio broadcasts for important information and instructions
- Turn off all electric equipment you were using when the power went out. Leave one simple light turn on so you will know when power is restored without causing a surge to the system.
- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles!
- Always hook necessary appliances to the generator directly, never to the home electrical system
- Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.
- Use the phone only in an emergency. Do not call 9-1-1 for information – only call to report a life-threatening emergency
- Eliminate unnecessary travel. Traffic signals may stop working during extended power outages.
- Remember to provide plenty of fresh cool water for your pets.



## **Specific information for people with disabilities:**

If you use a battery-operated wheelchair, life-support system, or other power-dependent equipment, have an extra battery. If available store a lightweight manual wheelchair for backup.

If you are blind or have a visual disability, store a talking or Braille clock or large-print timepiece with extra batteries.

Your local Fire and EMS service does not have sufficient resources to provide auxiliary power for all of the citizens who need it. That would simply be impossible. Each person is responsible to insure that adequate measures are in place for extended power outages. Manually operated equipment and reserve oxygen tanks should be kept in good working order.