



Genesee County Health Department

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RE: Power Outage Safety

Power outages can cause various safety concerns especially if the power is out for an extended period of time. The Genesee County Health Department wants you and your family to stay safe during a power outage. If you lose power remember the following tips:

- Never use generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline or charcoal burning devices inside of homes, basements, garages or near a window. These appliances give off carbon monoxide which can build up quickly in a home.
- Do not use a cooktop or oven to heat your home as these appliances are not designed for this purpose and may result in carbon monoxide poisonings.
- Ensure your home has a battery operated carbon monoxide detector, which are available at local home improvement and retail stores.
- During a power outage, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. A refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about the first 4 hours of the power outage as long as you keep the door shut.
- Discard any potentially hazardous food (meat, dairy, eggs, cut melons, and cooked vegetables) that have been above 41° F for four hours or more, reached a temperature of 45° F or higher for any length of time, or has an unusual color, odor, or texture.

Better Life Through Better Health

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- If you are without power for more than 4 hours, use coolers with ice to keep your food cold and safe. Separate coolers should be used for raw meats and other perishable items. A freezer will keep food frozen for 24-48 hours if you keep the door closed.
- Be prepared for any emergency by having canned or boxed foods at home because these foods don't require refrigeration and can be eaten cold or heated on an outdoor grill. Be sure to keep a hand-held can opener for use during a power outage. Have at least a three day supply of drinking water set aside for emergency use.
- Keep extra flashlights and batteries in your emergency supplies.
- Avoid power lines, objects in contact with power lines, and the use of electric tools and appliances to prevent electrical shock.
- Wear layers of clothing to help keep in body heat.

For more information about safety precautions during a power outage, visit

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/>.