



December Tip of The Month

Are You Prepared for a Power Outage?

This is the time of year when we need to make sure we are prepared for power outages. We encourage you to take a few moments and review the information below.

- Purchase needed items for your home, office, and car: flashlights, batteries, AM/FM battery powered radio, food.
- Keep cash and change on hand; in power failures ATMs may not work.
- Phones that are cordless and phones with answering machines are power dependent. Have one that does not require power to operate in case you need to call 9-1-1. Keep your cell phone charged.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, find out where the manual release lever is located and learn how to operate it.
- Check your smoke detectors to make sure the batteries are operating. Have a fire extinguisher and know how to operate it. Have a fire evacuation plan and practice fire drills.
- Check your smoke alarm and see what type it is. If it is hard-wired, make sure it has a battery to back it up in the event of a loss of power. Consider purchasing a smoke detector with batteries as a backup. Special smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.
- During the power outage unplug all small appliances to avoid a power surge. Leave one light on so you know when the power comes back on.



Portable Generators

Portable generators are an excellent source of backup power if operated safely. Never operate generators inside, only outside the home and only use fresh gasoline because old gasoline may not ignite. Safely store fuel outside, never indoors, and not in the garage. Plug appliances directly into the generator and never attach generators to the facility current.

Watch our Generator Safety video at:
<http://www.kitsapdem.org/streaming-videos.aspx>

For more information visit www.kitsapdem.org



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Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management