



Power outages can be inconvenient and even deadly. Backup power is essential to keeping you and your family safe. It's important to know the causes of power outages and how to prepare for one. Listed below are the 8 major reasons for Power Outages and what you can do to be prepared.

1. Severe Weather

Severe weather is the most common cause of Power Outages. The 4 major types of severe weather to cause Power Outages are high winds, lightning, snow, and ice. It is important to stay up to date with your local weather.

2. Fallen Trees

High winds, heavy snow, and Ice are the major reasons of fallen trees. Fallen tree debris can cause random power outages when they take down utility poles or wires.

3. Automotive Vehicle Collisions

Vehicle collisions with utility poles cause power outages on a local scale. They can happen at any time and for several reasons such as reckless driving, inclement weather, impaired driving, and distracted driving. While we do not have power poles on Lido, there are power poles and power stations nearby that provide out power and make us vulnerable to these outages.

4. Equipment Failure

Electrical equipment that provides power can sometimes be defective, interrupted or worn out over time. Power supply requires complex equipment that can stop working for several reasons. It can take hours and even days to fix them and get power up and running again.

5. High Energy Demand

High energy demand tends to occur during the summertime and wintertime when air conditioning units are working overtime. This causes an excessive draw of energy that can overload the system and cause Power Outages.

6. Earthquakes

Earthquakes are unpredictable. Quakes of all sizes can cause significant amounts of damage to disrupt power supply at any time. Earthquakes can also lead to lingering threats such as fires and tsunamis if close enough to coastal areas.

7. Construction Work/ Yard Work

Excavation digging can sometimes disrupt underground cables - Even simple yard work digging has the potential of causing power Outages. It is important to call number 811 before you plan on digging.

8. Planned Power Outages

Most planned power outages happen during normal business hours to minimize inconvenience to the customer. If repairs or maintenance cannot be finished within the scheduled time, electric companies will most likely schedule another Power Outage for the following day.

TYPES OF POWER OUTAGES

Permanent Fault: Contrary to the name, a permanent fault is not permanent. Faults are caused by unusual or unbalanced voltage or currents, or a stoppage in the flow. Permanent faults mean that the electrical issue cannot fix itself or reset without someone being sent to deal with the fault itself.

Brownout: During a Brownout, power is temporarily reduced. This means that power is not completely cut, but instead on a reduced power supply. Rolling Brownouts are used to reduce power by sections across the power grid to prevent the power grid from being overloaded.

Blackout: Blackouts are the most distressing of Power Outages. Recouping power can be extremely difficult because power stations can trip and shut off the grid. Black outs can last for hours, days or even weeks.

Being Prepared

Failure to prepare is preparing to fail. Power outages during severe weather can be unpredictable and being caught in the middle of a Power Outage can even be deadly.

Power Outages may:

- Disrupt communications, water, and transportation
- Close services such as gas stations, grocery stores, ATMs, and banks
- Cause food spoilage and water contamination
- Prevent use of medical equipment
- Disrupt

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN THE CASE OF A POWER OUTAGE

Preparing For a Power Outage

Flashlights and LED lanterns should be at the top of your list. Emergency flashlights that stay plugged in the wall and immediately activate in the event of a power outage are a great option. If you have a solar roof with battery backup you should be in good shape. For light power needs, a portable power bank may be the answer. While you will not be able to run your appliances from it, these can provide adequate power for some lights, charging your cell phone, etc. Another option is a generator. These require a fuel source such as gasoline or propane that can be dangerous and which you may not want to deal with.

No matter what you choose, maintenance is a consideration. Batteries in flash lights and power banks can last for several years, but remember to check the batteries and expiration dates as they all tend to leak, causing corrosion leading to inoperability. (Keeping a set of batteries in the freezer can greatly extend their life) Gasoline can expire within 3 to 6 months - Natural gas and Propane have no expiration date. Generators require maintenance (oil and spark plug changes) and annual starting to keep them fresh.

Most power outages only last a few hours, so if you can get by with flashlights and possibly a portable power station those will be least expensive and most convenient. For nighttime safety,

Know Your Medical Needs

It is important to speak with your medical provider about your medical devices that require electricity in the case of a Power Outage – this includes medication that requires refrigeration. Be informed on specific guidance of medications that are critical to life.

Food Storage

It is important to have an ample supply of nonperishable foods and water for every member of your household. According to the CDC, if the doors stay closed, food will stay safe for up to 4 hours in a refrigerator, 48 hours in a full freezer and 24 hours in a half-full freezer. Opening the doors can greatly reduce these times. Be sure to check that the temperature is 40 degrees or lower – Above 40 degrees can cause some food to spoil. One idea is to have a cooler with ice readily available for extra storage.

In conclusion

Always plan and be prepared in the event of a Power Outage– don't be caught by surprise. Have your power backup plan ready for whatever happens. These could be life-saving measures for you and your family.