

DO 1 THING
GOAL FOR OCTOBER: POWER

TAKE ACTION NOW

Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.

❖ **Have flashlights ready in an easily accessible place and check batteries in flashlights and radios.**



- The safest way to provide emergency lighting is with flashlights, battery-powered or solar lanterns.
- Keep flashlights with fresh batteries in several places throughout your home. Check them for proper operation regularly.
- Keep a supply of extra batteries. Batteries might be hard to find in a disaster.



❖ **Acquire and learn how to safely use a portable generator.**

- Using a properly connected generator of adequate size during a power outage will reduce or almost eliminate the impact a power outage has on your life.
- Make sure you get the correct size and type – **Talk to an electrician first!**
- The best way to use a portable generator is to connect it to your home using a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician.
 - It will keep the power from overloading the wiring in your home.
 - It will also keep the power from your generator from traveling back into the power lines.
 - You may also connect equipment directly to the outlets on the generator. Be sure extension cords are the proper length and gauge to handle the power requirements.



Remember: Always run generators outside. Never use a generator inside a house, in a basement, or garage. Never use a cord from a generator to back-feed a circuit in your house.

❖ **Create a power outage plan and decide what you can do before, during and after a power outage to minimize the effect on your household.**

Before the power goes out:

- Fill empty space in freezer with containers of water. Frozen water will displace air and keep food cold longer. Leave space in containers for ice to expand.
- Have at least one phone with a handset cord in your home. Many cordless phones will not work in a power outage.
- Learn how to use the manual release on your garage door and open it manually.
- Keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full. Fill up your tank if a major storm is predicted.
- Make sure you have a car charger and cord for your cell phone.





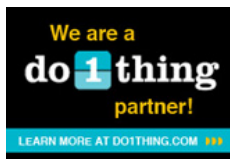
- If you use special healthcare equipment like oxygen generators or dialysis equipment, notify your power company.

After the power goes out:

- Unplug major appliances and electronics. To avoid power spikes when the power goes back on.
- Do not open refrigerators or freezers any more than necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for approximately 4 hours, an unopened freezer will keep food frozen for approximately 24 hours.
- Use a battery-powered radio to stay informed.



****MAKE TIME and GET STARTED TODAY! You will be glad you did!****



Check out this link for more information and help getting prepared:
<http://do1thing.com/audiences/individuals>