

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.**

- Keep flashlights, battery-powered or solar lanterns throughout the house. Check them for proper operation regularly.
- Keep a supply of extra batteries.



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

- 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.**

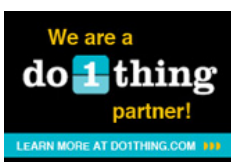
Before the power goes out:

- 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.
- Learn how to use the manual release on your garage door.
- Keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full.
- 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>