

UTILITY STORM SAFETY

High winds and heavy rain during spring and summer storms have the potential to disrupt utility service. Time spent planning and preparing before a storm can go a long way toward keeping yourself and your family safe when severe weather hits



Write down toll-free outage hotlines for each of your utilities



Save utility outage websites for updates on storm restoration



Keep cell phones charged so you can contact utilities & family



Secure food, medicine and supplies, including batteries for flashlights.

PREPARE BEFORE A STORM



STAY SAFE DURING A STORM



Call your utility hotline to report outages - Do not assume that the utility knows about your outage or that others have already called



Do not touch or approach any fallen lines and do not try to remove trees or limbs from power lines



Stay away from objects or puddles in contact with downed power lines and do not attempt to move a downed line



Do not call 9-1-1 to report power outages - call your utility. Calling 9-1-1 to report non-emergency issues like service outages can take resources away from other emergencies.

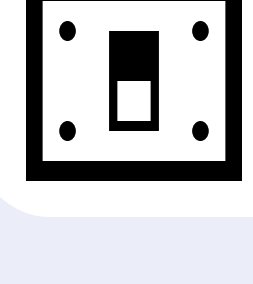


If you see a downed power line, immediately call your electric utility and/or 9-1-1

POST-STORM RECOVERY



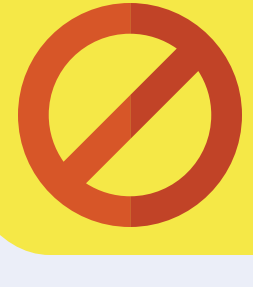
Use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns for emergency lighting. Do not use candles or other potential fire hazards



Turn off lights & electrical appliances (except refrigerator and freezer) to avoid possible damage from power "surges"



Leave one lamp switched on to alert you when power is restored... wait a few minutes before turning on other items



Do not run a generator inside a home or garage or near windows/vents - Don't connect directly to your home's electrical system

SAFETY FOR NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS



If you smell natural gas, get everyone outside immediately, leaving the door open (if possible)



Power outages can impact gas appliances - call a professional to check service if they don't function properly



Do NOT use phones, switch lights, or turn appliances on or off while inside the building



When safely outside, call 9-1-1

OTHER TIPS



Check on elderly neighbors and those with special needs who might need additional assistance



Give crews ample room to work and use care when traveling - watch for utility crews working along streets and slow down in work areas.