

BE READY St. Clair County

When the Power Goes Out



HEAT: Hypothermia is the biggest threat in the winter. Try to stay warm by wearing warm, loose layers and using extra blankets. Light exercise can help, but do not break a sweat. Be very cautious with portable space heaters.

FOOD: If the power is out longer than two hours, throw away refrigerated items that have reached a temperature over 40°F. A freezer will hold food safely for 24 - 48 hours.

WATER: When the power is out, water purification systems may not be working properly. Your water may not be safe to drink. If you do not have bottled water on hand, boil your water for at least one minute to kill harmful bacteria and parasites. Listen to local radio stations or access the St. Clair County website for more information.

CARBON MONOXIDE: During a power outage, never use generators, grills, camping lanterns, or other gasoline, propane, or charcoal burning devices inside your home, garage, or carport or near doors, windows, or vents. They produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that kills more than 500 Americans each year. Never use the stove or oven for heat! If your home is damaged, stay with friends or family or in a shelter.

LIGHT: Do not use candles during a black out. Flashlights and glow sticks are much safer.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS: Electrical fires sometimes occur when there is a power surge upon restoration of electrical service to the home. Turn off all electrical appliances and devices that were on before the power went off, including television sets, washers, dryers, and computers. NEVER go anywhere near downed power lines. Report them to authorities. If a power line falls on top of your car, do not get out. Call for help and tell others to stay away.