



Wind and Storm Outages

Article 5

It is a cold and stormy night. You're glad that your family is safe at home with you. The wind blows through the trees. Suddenly you hear the tremendous crash of a tree falling and your house goes dark.

Thank goodness you prepared for a possible disaster. Right after Thanksgiving dinner, you changed the batteries in all of the flashlights, which you keep in the kitchen, each of the bedrooms and garage. You are also very glad that you bought that extra supply of batteries yesterday at the hardware store.

You think...*what if the power outage lasts for a week or longer, just like the Winter Storm of '06?* Then you realize that you know how to find out where the warming shelter will be by checking Woodinville's emergency AM radio station, 1610 on your battery operated or hand-cranked portable radio.

Now with the power off, you think, *OK, don't open the refrigerator or freezer. That will help keep the foods cold (or frozen) for about 24 hours or so. We still have the BBQ to cook meals outside, and I just filled that extra propane tank, pretty smart move!*

With the power off, the furnace blower won't work. DON'T try to use the outdoor BBQ or gasoline generator in the house or garage; these give off poisonous carbon monoxide. Dig out the blankets to keep everyone warm and close the doors to those rooms you will not be using.

The canned food and other emergency supplies that you have should last at least three days and probably more – sort of like camping, you tell the kids. Let's see, one gallon of water per person per day...four in your family and the dog, that's five gallons of water per day. You have purchased three cases of bottled water and the water in the hot water tank can be used too.

You wonder how your mom is doing in Bellevue and realize that you need to call your brother in Michigan to let him know we are all OK. An out of area contact is important because local telephone lines can be unavailable. Since you have an old style corded phone, which works in case of a power outage, you still have a way to contact family members and friends.

This article references several ways that you can be prepared for a disaster. Subsequent articles will address emergency supplies you can keep in your car.

For other printed emergency preparedness information, please visit City Hall. The Emergency Preparedness Commission meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, at 17301 133rd Ave NE.