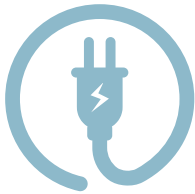




# PREPARING FOR POWER OUTAGES

Electricity customers experience an average of 7 hours of electric power interruption due to extreme weather events according to the US Energy Information Administration.

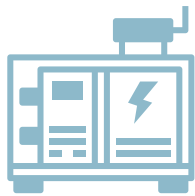
## 1.



### PRACTICE HOME SAFETY

- Unplug appliances and electronics
- **Do not use gas stovetop or oven to heat home**
- Learn about signs of carbon monoxide poisoning

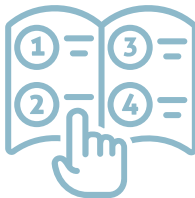
## 2.



### PURCHASE A GENERATOR

- **Understand your power needs** by assessing which appliances are essential to maintain during a power outage
- Learn about different types of generators
- Know that portable gas-powered generators are usually the most affordable, ranging from \$500 to \$3,200

## 3.



### FOLLOW GENERATOR SAFETY

- Read instructions carefully before operating
- Keep dry and let cool before refueling
- **Use outdoors and at least 20 feet away from home**
- Plug appliances into generator directly or with a heavy-duty extension cord
- Ensure that electrical cords are in good condition
- Avoid electrical shock by keeping electrical cords away from pooled water, ice, or snow

**If you or a close neighbor do not have a generator for power outages, learn the location of the closest emergency warming or cooling center and make your plan for how to get there safely.**



### SURVIVOR STORY

"We lived in a neighborhood that had frequent power outages during extreme events. **We knew this, but failed to do anything.** Then one winter the city had a massive snowstorm – **Unsurprisingly, the power went out.** Not only did we have no lights, or refrigeration, we also had no heat in the middle of winter. We had a one-year-old and didn't know what to do with all roads impassable.

**As you learn after a disaster, your neighbors are often the true first responders.** Our next-door neighbor had a generator and let us power a space heater for one room where all three of us rode out the storm. **The next week we went and bought a generator!"**

