



Monthly Campaign Power Outage



Emergency Management & Hazard Mitigation

What is a Power Outage/Failure?

A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly. Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy.

It can cause...

- Disruption with communications, water, transportation
- Closures of retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services
- Food spoilage, water contamination
- Prevention of medical devices

Who provides my electrical services in Stearns County?

Stearns County's top three electric companies:

- Xcel Energy
- Stearns Electric Association
- East Central Energy

If you aren't sure who provides service at your address, contact your city hall.



How to Prepare for a Power Outage

Take an inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity. Plan for batteries and other alternative power sources to meet your needs when the power goes out, such as a portable charger or power bank. Have flashlights for every household member. Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage and how long battery backup will last.



Power Outage Tips



- ❄ Keep freezers and refrigerators closed
- ❄ Use a generator, but ONLY outdoors and away from windows
- ❄ Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home
- ❄ Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electric surges
- ❄ Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices
- ❄ Check with local officials about heating and cooling locations open near you



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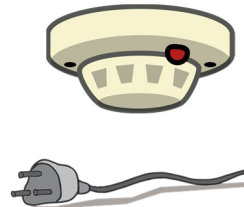
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How to Protect Yourself During A Power Outage

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.
- Use food supplies that do not require refrigeration.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- Check on your neighbors. Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.
- Go to a community location with power if heat or cold is extreme.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary “surges” or “spikes” that can cause damage.



Returning After A Power Outage

When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.

If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. If a life depends on the refrigerated drugs, consult a doctor or pharmacist and use medicine only until a new supply is available.



Websites

Ready
<https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

EPA-Incident Action Checklist
<https://bit.ly/2T5tkdX>

FEMA
<https://bit.ly/3zOe3yV>

DHS
<https://www.dhs.gov/power-failure>

