



# US Army Reserve Safety Awareness



## Power Outages



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

- Disrupt communications, water, and transportation.
- Close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services.
- Cause food spoilage and water contamination.
- Prevent use of medical devices.

### **PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE:**

- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.

### **Prepare NOW**

- Take an inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity.
- Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines.
- Plan for batteries and other alternatives to meet your needs when the power goes out.
- Sign up for local alerts and warning systems. Monitor weather reports.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home.
- Have flashlights with extra batteries. Have enough nonperishable food and water.
- Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged and gas tanks full.

### **Survive DURING**

- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can cause damage.

### **Be Safe AFTER**

- If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise.