

# Emergency Preparedness Pointers



## Emergency Lighting Don't Be Left in the Dark!



Although storm related or accidental power outages normally last only a few minutes, they can extend to hours, or in circumstances such as a severe ice storm or earthquake, you and your family could be left without power for days. Don't be left in the dark! Empower your family to calmly and comfortably make it through a short or long-term power outage. Every home should be prepared with some form of emergency lighting.

### Prepare Before the Outage:

- ✓ Place a flashlight in every room; secure each one to a specific location to ensure accessibility. Maintain an ample supply of batteries –checking them every six months.
- ✓ Keep a hard-wired, non-electric telephone (not cordless) for emergency access.
- ✓ Keep a large block of ice in the freezer to maintain the cold temperature longer.

### Once an Outage has Occurred:

- ✓ Determine if electricity is out only in your home or throughout your neighborhood.
- ✓ Do not call 911 unless you have a real, life-threatening emergency.
- ✓ Turn off electric ranges, irons or space heaters to prevent the possibility of a fire if you are not at home when the power is restored.
- ✓ Turn off most lights and appliances and reduce AC/furnace use to reduce electrical load when power is restored. After power is restored, wait a few minutes before turning them all back on.
- ✓ Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed so that they will retain cold air and reduce spoilage.

### Suggestions for Emergency Lighting:

#### Flashlights

Flashlights can provide psychological comfort and immediate emergency light when there's an interruption of power.

#### Lightsticks

Lightsticks are also an excellent source of emergency light and do not require electricity or batteries to operate. They can often work well in keeping children calm and entertained. Keep an ample supply for each family member.

#### Wall Units

Emergency wall units plug into electrical sockets and activate when electricity is disrupted. These work well in traffic areas and provide an excellent source of light during an outage.

### For information about an outage:

You can call a toll free number to either report an outage or hear current power information.  
Call: **Idaho Power 1-800-488-6150**



### Safety Tip:

**Do not** use candles, hurricane lamps, lanterns and other objects that rely on open flame for lighting. These items can easily topple or be knocked over by children or pets and cause a fire.

### Don't Forget:

#### Radios

Reliable information and instructions after any emergency or disaster are essential, even if it appears to be minor. Tune in to your local station and stay in touch for updates by keeping battery operated portable radios or televisions, and extra batteries, in an easily accessible location.

#### Special Needs

Electrical outages also impact persons with hearing impairments and others with special needs. Prepare now by including items such as extra batteries for hearing aides, TDDs, wheelchairs or a generator, or other back-up power, for life-safety equipment.