POWER OUTAGE CHECKLIST

A one-page checklist from FEMA, Ready.gov and the American Red Cross. Print it. Keep it on the fridge.

BEFORE THE POWER GOES OUT

- [ ] Store at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, for at least three days (FEMA, Ready.gov).
- [ ] Keep non-perishable food for at least three days, plus a manual can opener (Ready.gov).
- [ ] Put flashlights or battery lanterns and extra batteries where you can find them in the dark. Avoid candles if you can (Ready.gov, American Red Cross).
- [ ] Have a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries (Ready.gov).
- [ ] Keep carbon monoxide and smoke alarms working on battery or battery backup (CPSC, Ready.gov).
- [ ] Pack a first aid kit, needed medicines, glasses, and a way to charge a phone (Ready.gov).
- [ ] Set out warm clothes and extra blankets or sleeping bags (Ready.gov, FEMA).

WHILE THE POWER IS OUT

- [ ] Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. A closed fridge stays safe about 4 hours; a full freezer about 48 hours (USDA, Ready.gov, CDC).
- [ ] Use flashlights or battery lanterns. Do not use a gas stove or oven for light or heat (Ready.gov, American Red Cross, CDC, FEMA, NFPA).
- [ ] Leave one lamp or light switch on so you know when the power comes back (American Red Cross).
- [ ] Check on neighbors, especially older adults, once your own household is safe (CDC, National Weather Service).
- [ ] If you cannot keep your home safely warm or cool, go to a warming or cooling center. Call 211 to find one (Ready.gov, American Red Cross).

GENERATOR AND CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- [ ] Never run a generator, grill or camp stove inside a home or garage, even with the door open (CDC, CPSC, Ready.gov).
- [ ] Keep a generator at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents, with the exhaust pointed away (CPSC, CDC, Ready.gov).
- [ ] Never plug a generator into a wall outlet (CPSC).
- [ ] Stay away from downed power lines and anything touching them (American Red Cross, CDC).

Sources: Ready.gov/kit and Ready.gov/power-outages (FEMA); American Red Cross, Power Outage Safety; CDC carbon monoxide and food safety; CPSC generator and CO guidance; USDA FoodKeeper / food safety. doomsignals.com/downloads/power-outage-checklist.pdf · Checked Saturday, Nov 14, 2026. This page is free to print and share.