

Winter Emergency Preparedness



BE READY FOR A POWER OUTAGE BY FOLLOWING THESE STEPS



- Write down **PECO's** emergency number **1-800-841-4141** and keep it handy to report any outages or problems with your gas or electric service. **Do not call 9-1-1 to report a power outage.** The 9-1-1 centers cannot restore your power and such calls only delay responding to lifesaving calls.
- Portable phones only work with electricity — have a land-based or cell phone available.
- If you rely on life sustaining equipment, have battery back-up and have a relocation plan.
- Prepare a storm kit with items such as:
 - Flashlight with fresh batteries on each floor of your home — avoid using candles! If you do use candles, never leave them unattended.
 - Battery-operated clock and radio.
 - Supply of bottled water (especially if you have well water) and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods available for extended outages.
 - Make sure you have enough water for drinking and cooking.
- Unplug electronic appliances, such as TVs and computers, to protect them from a voltage surge from lightning, pole hits or other accidents.

STAY SAFE AND INFORMED

- Take cover if necessary and tune into news broadcasts.
- If outside, be aware of trees and downed power lines — stay clear!
- Do not touch or move downed lines - consider downed lines as energized and extremely dangerous.
- Report any downed lines to PECO at 1-800-841-4141 immediately.
- If you are in your vehicle and power lines fall on it, stay in the car until emergency personnel can assist. The car can become energized.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF THE LIGHTS GO OUT

- Call PECO at 1-800-841-4141 as soon as possible. Remember, call volume may become very busy during storms.
- Turn off and unplug most appliances to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Post the contents on the outside of the door. Move meats and dairy products into the freezer compartment since it will stay colder longer. If the freezer is partially full, it can keep meat frozen for up to 24 hours and up to 48 hours when full. Fill the freezer and refrigerator with bottles of water to take up space. Wrap the refrigerator/freezer in a blanket to keep it insulated and preserve foods longer.



WHAT PECO IS DOING IF THE LIGHTS GO OUT

- Whenever customers lose service, all efforts are focused on restoring service to everyone in a safe and timely manner.
- PECO restores service to transmission lines and substations first, followed by critical care customers such as hospitals and public water and sewage facilities, police and fire stations — and then to the most affected areas.

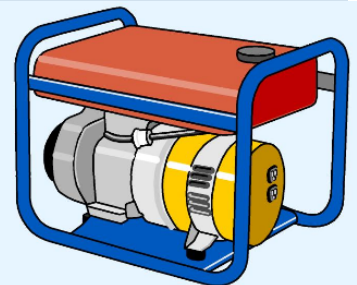
GENERATOR SAFETY

Keeping the power on when the electricity is out is not as simple as buying a gas generator, grabbing a few extension cords and plugging in appliances. Home-owners need to know some basic safety — and limitations — of portable generators in order to avoid fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows, vents and eaves.
- Never use a generator inside a home or closed area such as a garage, even if ventilated.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate only on a dry surface under an open canopy like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching a generator.
- Plug appliances directly into generator or use heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire cord is free of cuts and tears.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet.
- Before refueling the generator turn it off and let it cool for at least five minutes.

Portable generator safety

When the power goes out a portable generator can be a lifesaver, but used improperly it also can become life-threatening.



Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

HELP THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, HELP YOU DURING A SNOW/STORM EVENT

- Once snow accumulates two (2) inches or more and until the roadway is cleared by the Highway Department, no vehicle, trailer, boat or camper may be parked in the roadway.
- Keeping sidewalks safe is an important winter concern. Please clear snow, sleet and ice from sidewalks in front of your property no more than 24 hours after a storm. This helps to ensure that our school children get to and from school as safely as possible.
- It is impossible for snowplows to avoid having snow placed at the bottom of driveways. A helpful hint, that may limit the amount of snow in your driveway, is to shovel snow in driveways to the right side of the driveway (as you face the road) and clear the area immediately to the left of your driveway.
- Please do not shovel, blow or plow the snow from your driveway and/or sidewalk into the street.
- Remove trash & recycle cans, basketball nets from the roadway to avoid damage.
- If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please help the Horsham Fire Co. help you by clearing 3 feet in all directions.
- Problems may be reported to Horsham Township on the website at: www.horsham.org - Report a Concern.
- PennDOT clears the following state roads: County Line Rd, Easton Rd (Route 611) and Route 309. For questions/concerns call PennDOT: (610) 275-2368.
- After a severe storm, the Township road crews are required to clear roads and right-of-ways of fallen trees/branches (not in electrical wires) for traffic and accessibility should there be an emergency. It is the responsibility of homeowners for proper disposal of down trees/branches.



The Highway Department works extremely hard to make traveling on Township roads safe for everyone. Please be patient and allow time for them to arrive in your area and effectively remove snow and ice from the streets.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS – WWW.READYNOTIFYPA.ORG



ReadyNotifyPA is a system that helps local officials in Southeastern Pennsylvania send emergency text alerts to Horsham residents quickly. Be among the first to find out and stay informed during an emergency. Alerts can be sent to your cell and smart phone, pager, and/or e-mail and blackberry accounts. You decide how you'd like to be notified. These alerts are free; however, your cellular provider may charge for text messaging.

Individuals and businesses are urged to log onto www.readynotifypa.org and follow to the Montgomery County registration page. It is very important on page 4 – My Alerts that you select Montgomery County Municipalities and check Horsham only (this guarantees that you will only receive alerts for Horsham Township, not all of Montgomery County).



CANDLE WITH CARE

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires & fire deaths. A candle is an open flame, it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom and where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting during a power outage.

BE PREPARED ON THE ROAD



Most know the drill by now on preparing vehicles for travel in nasty weather. But for those who don't, AAA Mid-Atlantic offers these tips for safe traveling in snow, sleet or ice.

BEFORE THE STORM:

- Keep a FULL tank of gas.
- Pack an emergency kit – deicer, shovel, ice scraper, sand or kitty litter (for traction).
- Pack a blanket, extra gloves and hat, heavy coat
- Pack snacks, beverages, etc.
- Charge cellphone and have a backup power source for the car in case you're stuck for a while.

WHEN THE STORM HITS:

- Wait for the roads to be plowed and treated before venturing out – road surface condition is the single most important safety factor during a winter weather event.
- Bring extra hats, gloves, food and drinks in case you're stuck on icy roads for a long time.
- Thoroughly clean off your car – remove all snow and ice before driving anywhere.
- Warm up the car OUTSIDE the garage
- While on the road:
 - Increase following distances.
 - Accelerate and brake slowly. Slowing down takes longer on snowy, icy roads.
 - Do not use cruise control and avoid tailgating.

IF VEHICLE SKIDS:

- Continue to look where you want to go.
- Steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.
- Avoid slamming on the brakes— this will only further upset the vehicle's balance and make it harder to regain control.
- Wait for the front wheels to grip the road again. As soon as traction returns, the vehicle will start to steer again.
- When the front wheels have regained their grip, steer the wheels gently in the desired direction of travel.

FOOD AND WATER SAFETY DURING POWER OUTAGES

Emergencies can happen. When they do, the best strategy is to already have a plan in place. This includes knowing the proper food and water safety precautions to take if hurricanes, winter storms — or other flooding/power outages — do occur

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

1. Make sure you have appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer and ensure that the freezer temperature is at or below 0 ° F, and the refrigerator is at or below 40 ° F.
2. Freeze containers of water for ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator, or coolers in case the power goes out. If your normal water supply is contaminated or unavailable, the melting ice will also supply drinking water.
3. Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk, and fresh meat and poultry that you may not need immediately. This helps keep them at a safe temperature longer.
4. Group food together in the freezer. This helps the food stay cold longer.
5. Have coolers on hand to keep refrigerated food cold if the power will be out for more than 4 hours.
6. Purchase or make ice cubes in advance and store in the freezer for use in the refrigerator or in a cooler.
7. Check out local sources to know where dry ice and block ice can be purchased, just in case.
7. Make sure to have a supply of bottled water stored.

POWER OUTAGES: DURING AND AFTER

When the Power Goes Out . . .

Here are basic tips for keeping food safe:

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
 - The refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened.
 - A full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
 - Buy dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period of time. Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18 cubic foot, fully-stocked freezer cold for two days.
- If you plan to eat refrigerated or frozen meat, poultry, fish or eggs while it is still at safe temperatures, it's important that each item is thoroughly cooked to its proper temperature to assure that any foodborne bacteria that may be present are destroyed. However, if at any point the food was above 40 °F for 2 hours or more — discard it.
- Wash fruits and vegetables with water from a safe source before eating.
- For infants, try to use prepared, canned baby formula that requires no added water.



Once Power Is Restored . . .

You'll need to determine the safety of your food. Here's how:

- If an appliance thermometer was kept in the freezer, check the temperature when the power comes back on. If the freezer thermometer reads 40 °F or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.
- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, check each package of food to determine its safety. You can't rely on appearance or odor. If the food still contains ice crystals or is 40 °F or below, it is safe to refreeze or cook.
- Refrigerated food should be safe as long as the power was out for no more than 4 hours and the refrigerator door was kept shut. Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs or leftovers) that has been above 40 °F for two hours or more.

Keep in mind that perishable food such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk, and eggs that are not kept adequately refrigerated or frozen may cause illness if consumed, even when they are thoroughly cooked.



IMPORANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency:	9-1-1	PECO Energy:	(800) 841-4141
Police Response Non-Emergency:	(215) 643-3600	Montgomery County:	(610) 631-6530
Horsham Township:	(215) 643-3131	Ready PA (www.readypa.org):	(888) 973-2397
Horsham Fire Co.:	(215) 675-9859	American Red Cross:	(800) 435-7669



STAY INFORMED

As part of the Township's efforts to inform our residents, we utilize the following:

Township website
www.horsham.org

E-Notification System
(sign up on township website)

Ready Notify PA
www.readynotifypa.org

Government Access TV Channels
Comcast 22
Verizon 32

