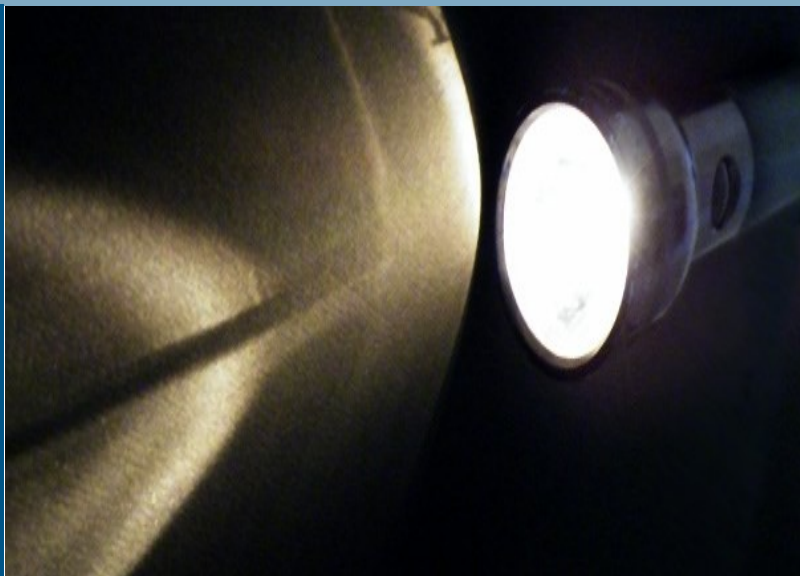


# At-A-Glance

## Blackouts and Power Outages

With Severe weather impacting Americans, residents need to be prepared for blackouts and power outages.



### Before a blackout...

- Prepare and double check the readiness of an emergency kit and make sure it has
  - Batteries
  - Flashlight
  - Weather or Broadcast Radio
  - Spare food (non-perishable is best; if you must keep food cold have a cooler)
  - First aid supplies
  - Alternative methods to charge devices
- Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible
- Be aware that some medication that requires refrigeration can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem
- Keep your car tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps
- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it
- Keep a key to your house with you or utilize a hiding spot for a key

### During a blackout...

- Use only flashlights for emergency lighting NEVER use candles during a blackout or power outage due to extreme risk of fire
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep items inside as fresh as possible

**Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage computers as well as motors in appliances like the air conditioner, refrigerator, washer or furnace**

Sources: Ready.Gov

### Did you know?

The biggest Blackout in U.S. history occurred on August 14, 2003, leaving roughly 50 million people without power. Blackouts can happen anywhere, and to anyone, so being prepared is important

For additional information on Blackouts and Power Outages go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



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