

- Have a portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio on hand to monitor official weather forecasts and other important information for your area.
- Families who have special medical needs or elderly members should closely monitor weather forecasts and make plans for potential alternate arrangements should an extended outage occur.
- Have a plan to move yourself and your family – especially those with special needs – to an alternate location in case you have to evacuate or experience an extended power outage.
- Keep a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand.
- Ensure first aid supplies and all medicines are readily available.
- Make sure flashlights are readily available and working and that a supply of extra batteries is on hand.
- Consider the need for specialty items such as prescription medication, baby food, additional warm clothing and a safe heat source.
- Homeowners who depend on well water should draw an emergency water supply in case power to their electric water pumps is interrupted.
- If you have an emergency heating or power source, learn how to use it properly.
- Have at least one traditional analog phone in your home that does not require electricity to operate. Cordless phones and phones with built-in answering machines will not operate during a power outage.
- Continue to monitor the media for important information.
- If you experience a power outage, please alert us by calling Duke Energy's toll-free, automated outage reporting system at 800.POWERON. Spanish speaking customers should call 866.4APAGON for outage reporting assistance. Those with access to the Internet may report an outage using our online report form. Sign up here to [receive phone or email alerts](#) or text REG to 57801 for text alerts.
- If you anticipate an extended outage, consider moving yourself and your family — especially those with special needs — to an alternative location.
- Consider checking on others who may benefit from your assistance.
- Consider all downed power lines and anything touching them energized and **DANGEROUS!** Do not get near them and report the problem to Duke Energy.
- Don't open freezers and refrigerators any more than absolutely necessary. Opening these appliances will allow food to thaw more quickly.

- During severe weather or power outages, turn off as many appliances and electronics as possible. After the power is restored, to help avoid damage, wait five to 10 minutes before turning them back on.
- Stay away from downed or sagging power lines, and do not touch anything that is on or near a power line (i.e., trees or tree limbs, cars, ladders).
- Keep children and family pets away from areas where lines may have fallen (backyards, fields, school yards, etc.).
- If a power line falls across a car that you're in, stay in the car. If you **MUST** get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.
- Report all power line hazards to Duke Energy or your local emergency services department or agency.

South Carolinians can reduce their risks of becoming a fire casualty by identifying potential hazards and following these safety tips:

### **Candle Safety**

- Use a sturdy candle holder and place on an uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish it upon leaving the room.

### **Generator Safety**

- Operate a generator in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings.

- Never refuel a generator while it is running. Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Store generator fuel in a properly labeled container. Store the container outside of living areas.

Chief Jones also offers these **cooking related** fire safety tips:

- Ensure the eyes of the stove are turned off - especially if cooking during a power outage.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home or garage, unless specifically designed for use in an enclosed space and provides instructions for safe use in an enclosed area.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home or garage.

Lastly, if there is a fire emergency, call 9-1-1 as soon as possible and remain outdoors. Never return inside a burning building.