



# GET READY FOR WIND STORMS



**Watch weather forecasts for potential wind storms. These guidelines can help you get prepared before the winds blow.**

## Personal Preparedness

- Use the Take Winter By Storm Checklist to prepare an emergency kit, including a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, emergency contact information, water, and non-perishable food. You can find a detailed list at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org).
- Keep flashlights, extra batteries and your utility's contact information in an easy-access location at home and work in case of power outages.

## Power Outages

- Prepare for power outages in advance of storm season.
  - If you are planting trees near power lines, make sure to plant the right tree in the right place so it's growth doesn't interfere with power lines.
  - Call your electric utility if you see trees on or near your property that are interfering with power lines.
- Report power outages or downed power lines as soon as they occur by calling your utility.
- Always stay away from downed power lines; or anything near a power line.
- If you find yourself near a downed power line, shuffle your feet away from the power line to avoid ground shock.
- Do not drive over downed power lines. Should a power line fall on your car when you're driving, stay in the car until help arrives.
- If you must leave your car because of fire or other danger, jump away from the vehicle so that you do not touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle your feet away from the line to a safe location.
- If your power goes out, use flashlights. Avoid candles, oil lamps or anything with an open flame.
- Never use charcoal or gas grills as an indoor heating or cooking source. They can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Use light sticks or small flashlights as landing strips for trip-prone areas in your home. Pick-up clutter around the floors to avoid stubbed toes.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when operating a generator. Test the operation of generators prior to a power outage and review manufacturer recommendations on connections and fueling. Locate generators outdoors and far from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Test batteries often.
- Keep your contact devices (cell phones, smart phones, laptops, tablets) fully charged in case of a power outage or prior to heading out into the elements for an extended length of time. To ensure backup, bring chargers and vehicle chargers for your contact devices with you.
- Use text messaging if power outages and network disruptions are causing phone calls not to go through. Wireless phones will not work if the electricity is out. Corded (also known as land line) phones are the most reliable.
- Stay informed. Use your battery or hand crank radio to tune in to local media channels for important updates and directives. Go to [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org) for links on how to register for alert systems in your area.

**When wind storms strike, first ensure your own safety. Then check in with family, friends, and neighbors to make sure they are OK.**

