

Be Prepared For Power Outages

Power outages: Nobody likes them, but unfortunately they can happen from time to time. Being prepared and knowing what to do when an outage occurs will make the time you are out of power more tolerable.

Before calling Klickitat PUD to report your outage, make sure your circuit breaker is not tripped or the fuses are not blown. Check to see if other people in your area have lost power.

Report the outage and be prepared to give your name, address and phone number.

Turn on an outside light so the repair crews can see when your power has been restored. When your power is restored, it's best not to turn everything back on all at once.

According to the USDA, food stored in a fully-stocked freezer will stay cold for two days. A half-full freezer will keep items frozen one day. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for four hours after power is lost. Check the temperature inside your fridge once electricity is restored to determine if the food is safe to eat. It should be at or below 40 degrees, and the freezer at or below zero degrees. If in doubt, throw it out.

Be patient, our crews will work diligently to restore your power.

Being prepared does not involve a lot of money or time. Your outage kit should include:

- Flashlight, candles, matches, lanterns and fuel, light sticks.
- Alternate heat source.
- Battery powered radio and batteries.
- A telephone that operates without electricity. Cordless phones don't work when you lose power.
- Canned or dried foods like crackers and peanut butter, and a manual can opener.
- Paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Fire extinguisher.
- First-aid kit and personal medical supplies.
- Extra blankets.
- Drinking water and water for other uses.
- Wind-up battery clock.
- Ice chest with ice or ice packs.
- Wood if you have a fireplace.
- Emergency phone numbers, including shelters.
- Board games or playing cards for your entertainment.

If you are medically dependant on electricity, call Klickitat PUD today so your name can be added to our customer life support program. Klickitat PUD's 24-hour power outage phone numbers are: Goldendale: 773-5891 or (800) 548-8357. White Salmon: 493-2255 or (800) 548-8358. ■

