ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO HAVE BEFORE POWER GOES OUT

• Flashlight (due to the risk of fire, do not use candles)
• Batteries
• Portable Radio
• First Aid Kit
• At least one gallon of water per person for a week
• A small supply of food
• Medications for at least one week

ACTION STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE A POWER OUTAGE

• Backup computer files and operating systems regularly.
• If you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual release lever and learn how to use it.
• Have at least one phone that is not powered by electricity (an old rotary phone, for example). Cordless phones may not work if the main base is electric.
• Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

DURING A BLACKOUT

• Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out.
• Leave one light turned on so you know when the power returns.
• Leave the doors of the refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible.
• Use the phone for emergencies only.
• Listen to a portable radio for the latest information.
• Follow manufacturer’s instructions for portable generators. Never use generators indoors or in garages; make sure there is clearance for fumes to move away from the home.
• Do not call 911 for information.
• If it is hot outdoors, take steps to remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home as cool air falls.
• Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
• If it is cool outdoors, put on layers of warm clothing.
• Remember to provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets.