

February Emergency Preparedness - Gleneden Beach

The state of Oregon, including a large portion of the coast, just experienced an ice storm that left thousands without power for days and sometimes over a week. Power outages during ice storms are common and the challenge becomes even greater when low temperatures stick around after the storm. In light of these recent weather events, information on what to do (and what not to do) during a power outage is important.

With power out and cold temperatures, staying warm is important. Also, having light to see and staying in communication with others can help keep you safe. With that, there are some definite things to do and not to do when your power is out.

Do

- Do keep flashlights available with fresh batteries.
- Do consider a re-charging battery for cell phones and computers.
- Do keep cell phones charged if there are reports of a storm coming.
- Do stock up on food that doesn't require refrigeration.
- Do keep pet food stocked as well as many stores cannot remain open during an outage.
- Do check on your neighbors who may need help, food or heat.
- Do check on food and make sure it hasn't expired before eating.

Don't

- Don't go near any down power lines. Contact the utility and report them.
- Don't use any fuel-based heating system in the home to stay warm. Do not use grills or generators inside for heat or electricity. Carbon monoxide poisoning is dangerous.
- Don't use a gas stove top for heating. This is also dangerous for carbon monoxide and starting a house fire.
- Don't use your fireplace if you haven't had the chimney cleaned. This can start a chimney fire and spread through the house.
- Don't start your car in the garage for warmth.

These are important guidelines for dealing with a power outage. Power can go out any time of year at the coast, so it's always good to be prepared.