



Don't wait. Be prepared before the storm.

Imagine a major storm hits - many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. Planning ahead ensures you have the tools and resources to effectively weather a storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers more resources to help you prepare at www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness actions and items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food (canned goods/energy bars/peanut butter/instant coffee/water) and other essentials (diapers/toiletries).
- Confirm you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies (soap/hand sanitizer).
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked and your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside emergency items (flashlights/batteries/manual can opener/battery-powered radio/TV).
- Organize supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

With advance warning

- Take extra steps to safeguard your home (shutter windows/securely close exterior doors).

- Fully charge cell phones, laptops and devices.
- Be sure generators are rated to handle the amount of power you will need; review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. See Backup Generator Application below.

During a storm

- If power is out, turn off appliances/TVs/computers/other sensitive electronics to help avert damage from a power surge and help prevent overloading circuits during restoration. (Leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.)
- If utilizing a small generator, consider using LED holiday lights or solar lights to illuminate living areas.
- During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones.
- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radios for emergency updates. Install our MyMEC App to your mobile device to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news. To download it search for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App Store; you'll need to input your account number (found on your bill) or meter number (located under the digital digits and above the barcode) to link your location.

- During and after the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

Backup Generator Application

Some of our members have backup generators to utilize during extended power outages. It is critical that any backup generation connected to your electric system includes a manual or automatic transfer switch. Without the switch, the backup generation could feed back onto our lines, putting our linemen and others at risk of electrocution.

We need to know if you use a generator that connects to your home's electrical system. You or your installing contractor must submit the online Backup Generator Application at www.menard.com/generators. If you do not have internet access, call the office to request a paper copy.

