# Managing Power Outages

This playbook provides a detailed procedure for effectively handling power outages that occur as a result of natural disasters. It focuses on strategies for living without electricity and ensuring food safety during such emergencies.

### Step 1: Emergency Kit

Prepare an emergency kit containing flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, a radio, and essential medications. Store it in an easily accessible place.

### Step 2: Food Supplies

Stock non-perishable food items that do not require refrigeration. Include bottled water, canned goods, and dry staples like rice and beans.

### Step 3: Refrigeration Plan

Plan for refrigeration by freezing water bottles or gel packs in advance to help keep food cold during a power outage.

### Step 4: Temperature Monitoring

Keep a refrigerator thermometer inside to monitor the temperature during outages. Ensure it remains at or below 40°F to preserve food safety.

### Step 5: Conserving Cold

Minimize opening refrigerator and freezer doors to conserve the cold air. Grouping items together can help maintain their temperature longer.

### Step 6: Alternative Cooking

Identify alternative cooking methods such as gas stoves, grills, or camp stoves, but ensure they are used in well-ventilated areas to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

### Step 7: Safe Water

If the safety of the tap water is compromised, use your bottled water supply for drinking and sanitation.

### Step 8: Backup Power

Consider investing in a generator or alternative power sources like solar chargers for essential needs and communication devices.

### Step 9: Food Safety Assessment

After the power is restored, assess the safety of your food. Discard any perishable foods that have been above 40°F for more than two hours.

## General Notes

### Emergency Contacts

Maintain a list of emergency contacts, including local authorities and utility companies, easily accessible for reporting outages or seeking assistance.

### Community Plan

Know your community's emergency response plan, including locations of shelters and resources for those in need during disasters.

### Insurance Information

Keep insurance documents and important personal documents in a waterproof container, and know your coverage for natural disasters.