

Power Failure During Winter Storms

(Adapted from Suburban News)

Wind and ice, fallen trees and downed power lines during and after winter storms can all disrupt your electric distribution system. If your lights go out during a storm, first check to see if there is an outage throughout the rest of the house.

If not, check your fuse box or circuit breaker box. If the fuse is blown, disconnect any unnecessary appliances and replace the fuse with a new one of the same ampere capacity (check the number on the bottom of the removed fuse to determine capacity. Handle with dry hands.

Circuit breakers can be restored by first disconnecting unnecessary appliances and then pushing the circuit breaker handle all the way to the “off” position and then back to the “on” position.

If the power in the rest of your neighborhood is out, as well as in your home, contact your local utility company immediately. Give the location, the nature and the extent of the outage. While the power is being restored, observe the following safety rules:

- Don't go near or touch any fallen power lines. Notify your local police or fire department.
- Have a flashlight, a battery powered radio and bottled water handy.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Avoid opening windows and doors to conserve heat. Don't heat your home with any combustion equipment such as a gas range or kerosene heater unless properly ventilated.
- If neighborhood power comes on and yours doesn't, call the utility once again.
- Alert your utility company and local police, in advance, if someone in your household uses electrically operated life support equipment. You should also have emergency equipment nearby to keep the system operating during an outage.



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