



PREPARE

- ▶ **Conserve** as much electricity as possible, to help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts.
- ▶ Keep working **flashlights** and candles on hand—see *LIGHT*.
- ▶ Be prepared for lack of power to kitchen **appliances**—see *FOOD and COOKING*.
- ▶ Some **medical** devices run on electricity, and some medications must be refrigerated. Talk to family doctors about preparing for a power outage.
- ▶ Depending on your situation, you may need a **generator**; for example, to run air conditioners, heating systems, or medical equipment. For more information about generators, see *HEAT*.
- ▶ Keep **gas tanks** at least half full, since gas station pumps don't work without electricity.
- ▶ Know how to manually open electric garage **doors**.



Downed Electrical Power Lines.

- ▶ Watch out for and avoid downed power lines.
- ▶ **Expect every line to be live.** If you see a downed line, call the electric company immediately.
- ▶ If a line is touching someone, stay away, or you could be electrocuted. Call 911 for help.
- ▶ If a line falls on your car, call 911 and stay in the car until emergency responders arrive. If you must get out, jump out so you don't touch the car and ground at the same time; otherwise, you'll complete the electrical circuit and be shocked!

LEARN MORE at Ready.gov:
ready.gov/blackouts

RESPOND

- ▶ **Check** the breaker box for blown fuses or tripped circuits. If these are okay, see if your street and neighbor's lights are out.
- ▶ **Call** and tell the electric company. Only call once so neighbors can get through too.
- ▶ **Turn off** and **unplug** everything that uses electricity, including appliances, to prevent surge damage and system overload when the power is restored. Keep one light turned on so you'll know when you have electricity.
- ▶ **Listen** to a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio for information.
- ▶ Don't open **refrigerator** or freezer doors, to keep food cold as long as possible.
- ▶ If your neighbor's electricity comes back on, but yours doesn't, call the electric company again.
- ▶ If your lights are **flickering, dim,** or very **bright** when they come back on, this could indicate a voltage problem. Turn the electricity off at the breaker box. Then call the electric company, and let them know.
- ▶ After **flooding**, check the electrical system for broken or frayed wires. If you see sparks or smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main circuit breaker box—*but don't step in water to reach it!* Water conducts electricity.

Look for flooded electrical circuits, submerged furnaces or electrical appliances, and other potential **fire** or **shock hazards**. ***If you have ANY doubts about safety, call a licensed electrician!***