

Outage Preparation

To be prepared for an outage, you need to gather these supplies before an outage occurs. These are a good to have in case of any emergency. Gather these items:

- flashlight and extra batteries
- battery-powered weather radio and portable radio to receive emergency information
- plenty of water – the American Red Cross suggests one gallon per person per day
- high-energy foods that don't require refrigeration or cooking, such as dried fruit, nuts, granola bars, cereals and canned goods
- a non-electric can opener
- a week's worth of medicines
- first-aid supplies
- individually wrapped moist wipes for hand cleaning
- extra baby items
- sleeping bags, blankets and pillows
- books and games to keep kids occupied
- ABC-type fire extinguisher
- plenty of food and water (and shelter) for pets.

In addition, Pella Cooperative Electric advises completing these tasks:

- (1) If you or a family member relies on life-support equipment, make sure your electric cooperative is aware of this and possible shelter options are explored.
- (2) Make sure a fuel-burning space heater and/or wood stove operates properly – and that you have enough fuel on hand.
- (3) Check the batteries in – and test – all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. If any of the devices are 10 years old, replace them.
- (4) If you have an electric garage door opener, it won't work during a power outage, so make sure you know how to open the door manually.