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.