DARK DISPATCH NEWS

72-Hour Blackout & Comms Checklist

Print a copy and keep it where everyone in the household can find it.

First 10 minutes

- ☐ **Check the source.** Look up your utility's outage page or saved phone number. Note the last update and any restoration estimate.
- ☐ **Save phone battery.** Turn on low-power mode and dim the screen. Text your household or out-of-area contact and agree on a check-in time.
- ☐ **Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.** Move flashlights where everyone can find them.

Plan for the next three days

- ☐ **Water and food.** Plan for at least one gallon of water per person per day. Set aside shelf-stable food and a manual can opener if needed.
- ☐ **Medicines and medical devices.** Write down backup power or refrigeration needs. Ask your pharmacist or care team about a backup plan.
- ☐ **Decide where to go.** Write down a place you can safely reach if the home gets too hot or cold or you lose essential medical power.

Keep these details on paper

- ☐ Utility outage number: _____ Out-of-area contact: _____
- ☐ Next check-in: _____ Backup location: _____

Generator safety. Run portable generators outdoors, at least 20 feet from building openings. Never use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.

Sources: FEMA power outage guidance · Ready.gov emergency kit · Ready.gov family plan