



# Abbotsford Emergency Program

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## Winter Power Outage

A Blackout during the winter would require a plan with unique protective actions. Power supply interruptions can last from a few hours to several days and are often caused by severe winter storms that can cause damage to the infrastructure supplying power to our homes. Protect your family – BE PREPARED

### Before An Outage:

- Use surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment such as computers, DVD players and TV's
- Make sure that your home is properly insulated. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to keep cold air out.
- Prepare a Home Emergency Kit ahead of time (Refer to "Emergency Kit" Tip Page)

### During An Outage:

- Do not use charcoal or gas barbeques, camping heating equipment, or home generators indoors. They give off carbon monoxide, which can cause serious health problems and even death. Do not use indoor gas appliances either to generate heat, they will also deplete the oxygen in your home.
- Do not open your freezer or fridge unless it is absolutely necessary. A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours if the door remains closed.
- Use proper candle holders, NEVER leave candles unattended.
- Turn off all appliances, including home computers. Leave one light switch on inside so you know when power is restored and one outside so BC Hydro crews know when the power is back on.
- Dress for the season, wearing several layers of loose fitting, lightweight; warm clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Call BC Hydro at 1-888-POWERON (1-888-769-3766) or \*HYDRO on your cell phone to report the outage, and/or a fallen power line.

### After An Outage:

- Be extra cautious if you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by storm debris, and could be live. Never attempt to touch or move downed lines. Keep children and pets away from them. Stay back at least 10 metres.
  - Check with and help your neighbours.
  - Continue to stay off the streets when hazards are present.
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