

Your Guide to

# Winter Storm Preparedness



Storm readiness starts today.  
A proactive guide to our *Always On*  
approach to winter storms

# Winter Storm Guide

Managed Generator Services passionately believes in the power of proactivity. We apply that mindset through our *Always On* approach to standby generator consultation, installation, and preventative maintenance.

With industry-leading response times across the Southeast and 24/7 dedicated account managers, we've quickly become one of the most trusted generator vendors to thousands of clients.

Unfortunately, winter storms aren't typically what we think of first when it comes to being prepared, especially when compared to other weather events like hurricanes.

However, ice storms are responsible for thousands of power outage events that can last up to 5-7 days.

Our experience and our passion for proactivity gives us a unique perspective on winter storm preparedness, which is why we offer this guide to help all our neighbors.

In the event you are interested in investing in a standby generator to protect your home and family from power outages, please give us a call or send us an email to arrange a complimentary consultation.

For now, please print or keep this guide handy so that you'll always be prepared for what Mother Nature throws your way.

[MGSLLC.com](http://MGSLLC.com)  
(800) 209-1436



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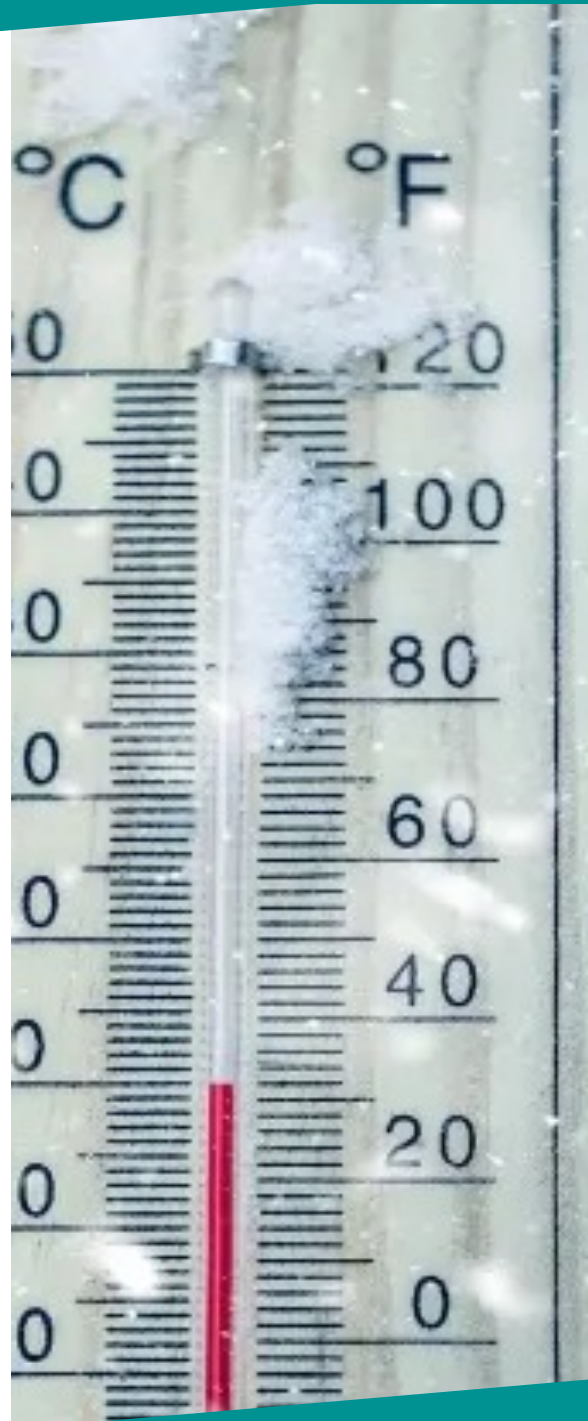
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# Emergency Resources

## Important Contacts

Keep the following contacts handy in case of emergency:

In the event or emergency  
or when in doubt, call

**911**

### US Government Website

[www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

### Your Local News Station

website:

### Your Local Power Company

website:

phone:

We understand that when the power goes out, it makes a difficult situation feel even harder. Whether you are an MGS client or not, we're always available to do prestorm checks or respond to downed generators as part of our *Always On* mission.

### Managed Generator Services

[www.mgsllc.com](http://www.mgsllc.com)

(800) 209-1436

[Service@mgsllc.com](mailto:Service@mgsllc.com)



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MANAGED GENERATOR  
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# Terms to Know

## Winter Storm References

Each year, hundreds of Americans are injured or killed by exposure to cold, vehicle accidents on wintry roads, and fires caused by the improper use of heaters. Prepare now so you can stay safe during blizzards and other winter storms.

Take immediate precautions if you hear these words on the news:



**Winter Storm WARNING:** Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Snow may reduce visibility to less than a quarter mile. Expected to prevail for three hours or longer.



**Blizzard WARNING:** Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable falling or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile., Expected to prevail for three hours or longer.

### Other winter storm words to listen for

•**WIND CHILL Temperature:** How cold people and animals feel when outside. As wind increases, heat is carried away from your body at a faster rate, driving down your body temperature and making you feel much colder. The wind chill temperature is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin.

•**Winter Storm OUTLOOK:** Winter storm conditions possible in the next two to five days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.

•**Winter Storm WATCH:** Winter storm conditions possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. Review your winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

•**Winter Weather ADVISORY:** Winter weather conditions expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous but not life-threatening if you are cautious



# Winter Storm Preparedness

## **Listen to weather forecasts and check your supplies.**

Listen to weather forecasts regularly, and check your emergency supplies, including emergency food and water supplies, whenever you are expecting a winter storm or extreme cold. Even though we can't always predict extreme cold, weather forecasts can sometimes give you several days' notice to prepare.

## **Bring your pets indoors.**

If you have pets, bring them indoors. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm, and make sure they have access to unfrozen water.

## **Get your car ready.**

Have maintenance service on your vehicle as often as the manufacturer recommends. In addition, every fall, do the following: Have the radiator system serviced, or check the antifreeze level yourself with an antifreeze tester. Add antifreeze as needed. Replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.

Make sure the tires on your car have adequate tread and air pressure. Replace any worn tires and fill low tires with air to the proper pressure recommended for your car (typically 30-35 psi).

Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Keep your car in good working order. Be sure to check the following: heater, defroster, brakes, brake fluid, ignition, emergency flashers, exhaust, oil, and battery.



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# Winter Storm Checklist

## Before the Storm

Be proactive by performing the following prestorm checklist:

- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.
- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Install storm or thermal-pane windows, or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structures during a storm.
- If you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly, and replace batteries twice a year.
- Keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby.
- Each winter season have your furnace system and vent checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Build an emergency kit.



# Winter Storm Car Checklist

## Create an Emergency Car Kit

It is best to avoid traveling during a storm, but if travel is necessary, keep the following in your car:

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- Items to keep you warm, such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocketknife
- Tow chains or rope
- Tire chain
- Canned compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Hazard or other reflectors
- Brightly colored flags or help signs, emergency distress flags, and/or emergency flares
- Road maps
- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water





# Be Power-Outage Ready

## Be Prepared

Sudden power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a long time. If a power outage lasts two hours or less, you need not be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages, though, there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

## Energy Conservation Recommendations

- Turn off lights and computers when not in use.
- Wash clothes in cold water if possible; wash only full loads and clean the dryer's lint trap after each use.
- When using a dishwasher, wash only full loads and use the light cycle. If possible, use the rinse-only cycle and turn off the high-temperature rinse option. When the regular wash cycle is done, just open the dishwasher door to allow the dishes to air dry.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights.

## To help preserve your food, keep the following supplies in your home:

- One or more coolers—inexpensive styrofoam coolers work well.
- Ice—surrounding your food with ice in a cooler or in the refrigerator will keep food colder for a longer period of time during a prolonged power outage.
- A digital quick-response thermometer— with these thermometers you can quickly check the internal temperature of food to ensure it is cold enough to eat safely.

# Be Power-Outage Ready, Continued

## Put together an emergency preparedness kit with these supplies in case of a prolonged or widespread power outage:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Food—nonperishable, easy-to-prepare items (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Flashlight (*NOTE: Do not use candles during a power outage because of the extreme risk of fire.*)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA weather radio, if possible) and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items
- Multipurpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, deed or lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, remember to include backup power in your evacuation plan.
- Keep a noncordless telephone in your home. It is likely to work even when the power is out.

# During A Power Outage

## **Keep food as safe as possible.**

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Use perishable food from the refrigerator first. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about four hours. Then use food from the freezer. A full freezer will maintain its temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.

Use your nonperishable foods and staples after using food from the refrigerator and freezer. If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items. Keep food in a dry, cool spot, and keep it covered at all times.

## **Electrical equipment**

Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics. Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment, or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment. Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on. Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out, and roads will be congested.

## **Using generators safely**

When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system.

If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as Managed Generator Services, who can make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.

# Portable Generator Safety

## Protect Yourself—Take it Outside

When using a portable generator for energy power, it is critical to be aware of potential hazards and operate your unit safely.

## Carbon Monoxide

CO2 is odorless and colorless and can kill in minutes. The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association recommends not placing a generator within twenty feet of any livable space. That includes a deck or patio.

- Using a generator indoors **can kill you in minutes**. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poisonous gas you cannot see or smell.
- **Never** run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.
- **Only** use a generator outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, and crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms or detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.



**Given the dangers associated with portable generators, always consult your generator's user manual before, during, and after use.**

## Don't Trust Internet Myths:

**Never** place your generator on planks of plywood if the ground is wet. Even if the wood stays dry, there is still an electrocution risk when the cables run across the ground.

**Never** create a tent or box to keep your generator dry from rain. These structures do not allow proper airflow needs for your generator and can also allow for a buildup of CO2.

**Never** move your generator closer to your home to keep it out of the elements. Your generator should always be at least 20 feet from your home.

**Never** use an indoor extension cord for your generator. They do not repel moisture and could result in electrocution.



# Standby Generators

## Safe, Reliable and Convenient

A standby generator is the best way to stay safe and comfortable during the power outages associated with hurricanes.

A standby generator is installed outside your home or business like an AC unit. It's wired into the electrical panel and comes on automatically during a power outage.

A standby generator runs on propane or natural gas, so there's no refueling needed.

In just 10 seconds, a generator automatically powers your AC, heat, sump pump, and major appliances like your fridge and oven.



## Prestorm Checks

Keeping up with regularly scheduled preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure your generator works when you need it, but having a proactive mindset is key to being prepared. Call or email us for a prestorm system check or check out our self-service videos online.

\*Please refer to our guides on residential standby generators at [MGSLLC.com](http://MGSLLC.com) for more information.

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# Family Contacts

## Contact Information

Out-Of-Town Contact: Phone #:

Evaluation Center: Phone #:

Local Meeting Spot: Phone #:

## Family Members

Name: Social Security No:  
Date Of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date Of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date Of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date Of Birth: Note:

## Where We Might Be

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

# Family Medication Form

Print out and complete for each family member

This form is for

-----

Important Contacts	Company Name	Phone #	Policy #
Medical Insurance			
Homeowners Insurance:			
Veterinarian			

Medical Allergies	
Medication Name:	Reaction:

Current Prescriptions			
Medication Name:	Doctor's Info	Dosage	Frequency

# Home Inventory

Use the following inventory sheet for each room in your home to make sure all your valuables are documented in the event of an insurance claim. Videos and pictures are also recommended.

Item	Brand	Purchase Date	Price
Furniture:			
Electronics:			
Other:			



Interested in a Home  
Generator?

**MGS** MANAGED  
GENERATOR  
SERVICES

**(800) 209-1436**

**info@MGSLLC.com**



Learn More

Call, email or visit our website,  
MGSLLC.com for more information