

Outage Center Storm Information

Preparing for Outages

Throughout the Four States, severe weather knows no season and strikes throughout the year – sometimes resulting in a loss of your electric service. By taking time to plan in advance, you can prepare your family and your home for these unexpected outages.

- ✓ Develop plans for shelter during an outage before one occurs. Create an action plan to keep the elderly and those medically dependent upon electricity safe during an outage. Those medically dependent upon electricity may want to speak to their physician about an emergency battery back-up system.

- ✓ Create an outage kit that has the following items in it:
 - Emergency telephone numbers
 - Flashlights
 - Battery-operated radio
 - Battery-operated clock
 - Additional batteries for all battery-operated items
 - Supply of bottled water
 - Non-perishable foods that do not need to be heated
 - Manually operated can opener
 - First-Aid kit and medications
 - Specific items necessary to meet the needs of infants, children, elderly, and family members who have special needs.
 - Blankets and warm, dry clothing

- ✓ Some families may consider adding surge protection devices to provide additional safeguards to their home appliances.

- ✓ Have a standard landline phone available for use – remember, cordless phones do not work during an outage, and cell phones cannot be recharged.

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with how to manually operate your home's garage door opener – this feature will not work if there is an outage.

- ✓ Visit the different sections in the Outage Center section of Empire's Web site. Handy tools and information are provided to give our customers the opportunity to be prepared prior to an outage.

Call Empire District Electric at 1-800-206-2300 to report outages, flickering lights, downed lines, or other electrical problems.