

Don't miss a beat during a power outage

Short-term power outages can be a minor inconvenience. A long-term power outage can cause a major disruption to daily life.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's Annual Electric Power Industry Report says interruptions in electric service vary by frequency and duration across the many electric distribution systems that serve the country. In 2016, the most recent year for data, customers experienced an average of 1.3 interruptions and went without power for around four hours.

When a storm strikes or an accident knocks out electric power lines or other infrastructure, it may take much longer for power to be restored. During Superstorm Sandy in 2012, more than eight million people lost power and outages lasted for days in some major cities. Outlying areas were

without power for weeks, according to National Geographic. It's important to know how to handle a power outage to keep everyone safe and comfortable until power can be restored.

Invest in a generator

If you live in an area that is affected by frequent power outages, a power generator may prove a worthwhile investment. Generators come in two basic types. A portable generator can be rolled into place and uses gasoline as fuel. Plug in a set number of household items, depending on the amount of power the appliance can accommodate. A whole-house generator can be hard-wired to a home's electrical system and automatically engage should a power outage occur.

Prepare in advance

In anticipation of a power outage, stock up on bat-

tery-powered devices like flashlights, lanterns and radios. Charge mobile phones and other devices so they're at 100 percent power.

Keep a cache of nonperishable food available and plan to use any perishable items that are in the refrigerator first. A refrigerator can keep food cold for about four hours after power has ceased, states Ready.gov, while a freezer can keep the temperature for about 48 hours if full. Packing these appliances with ice or frozen bottles of water can help.

Purchase books, board games and puzzles to have activities to pass the time until power resumes.

During a power outage

Report the power outage to the power company if it seems localized; otherwise, wait for updates to see who is affected.

Try to remain cool or

warm if the HVAC system is not functioning. Pool resources by having everyone in the family gather in one room of the house. Older adults and children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

Maintain food supplies

that do not require refrigeration, including two gallons of bottled water per individual. People who take refrigerated medications should only ingest drugs that have been at room temperature until a new supply is available, advises the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

Power outages routinely occur and require planning and safety precautions until power is restored.



The differences between weather warnings and watches

Weather is hard to predict. Meteorologists have many tools at their disposal to help forecast storms and other phenomena, but it is impossible to predict the weather with 100 percent accuracy.

When the weather takes a turn for the worse, the National Weather Service may issue certain notices to prepare the public. Understanding the level of threat a notice carries can help people take appropriate action and avoid serious consequences.

The NWS uses a four-tier system to alert the public of hazards. Here's a closer look at what each tier constitutes.

Outlook

This is the least serious weather alert. It usually means that hazardous weather may approach in the next three to seven days. The public should monitor the situation and stay tuned for further updates.

Advisory

With an advisory, weather conditions are not overly serious but could prove inconvenient. Individuals should be cautious and prudent when preparing supplies or traveling.

Watch

During a weather watch, there is an increased risk of a hazardous weather occur-

rence, though the timing or location is still uncertain. This is when it is essential to practice an evacuation or preparedness plan and stock up on any last-minute supplies.

Warning

The most serious of the weather impact notifications, a warning constitutes an imminent or likely event. The weather may cause a threat to property or life. Immediate action to stay safe is necessary.

While these alerts are based on the severity of impending weather, it is important to note that the NWS will not necessarily follow the same timeline

with issuing alerts. That depends on how fast a weather situation develops. If there is time, an advisory, then a watch and then a warning

may be issued. However, if a storm moves in rapidly, only a warning may be issued. People always should pay attention to weather

notices so they can be prepared should severe weather be in the forecast.



PREPAREDNESS IS ABOUT COMMUNITY NOT CATASTROPHE

Have you talked about shelter in place with your family? Do you know what to do in case of an emergency?

WHAT TO DO

Take precaution before an emergency, get your family disaster supplies including tents, animal carriers, medicine, fresh food and water for two weeks or up to two months of nonperishables, pantry items and bottled water. Make sure you stock up enough for your animals both big and small. Carry fresh batteries and a spare cell phone charger, including one you can use in your car. Make sure you have a working radio. Stock plenty of propane, lighters or matches and other sources of heat in case utilities are down for days. Buy a generator if possible, in an emergency it could provide energy for your television or refrigerator or oxygen tank.

STAY INFORMED

Community preparedness is important. If you are prepared, are you available to help your neighbor if they are not? Your local post office or newspaper may be delayed but, local radio and television stations will still carry important messages. The elderly or disabled may need help shoveling their walkways to get out of snow or debris, they may not be able to communicate this to you but, look for signs of distress. Your neighbor may need help getting food and water, charging their cellphone, getting to appointments, locating a loved one through social media, or in need of medical supplies for themselves or their pets. This is when community works at its best.

RESOURCES

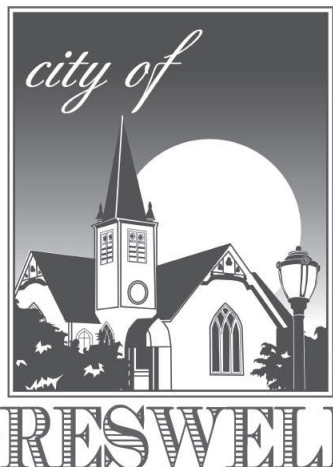
Stay in contact with Lane County Sherrifs for welfare checks. Visit Lane County Alert Sense online and sign up to receive emergency alerts. Check out the Red Cross' Preparedness Guide. Take a look at Living on Shaky Ground, Oregon's Emergency Management Guide to surviving natural disasters. Or hold onto this special section and keep it near your phone book or in your emergency backpack.

For more information:

www.ci.creswell.or.us

www.facebook.com/cityofcreswell

Text "Hi" to (541)204-2320 to register to receive announcements from the City of Creswell.



If you smell ROTTEN EGGS it could be a gas leak.

And the best thing to do is leave your home and call NW Natural. We'll be out to make sure everything is safe.

Unsured of what to do? Just take a look at our tips to the right.



How to identify a possible gas leak.

If you smell a rotten egg or sulfur odor, you hear a blowing or hissing sound, or you see blowing dirt, it could be a gas leak.

What to do.

Leave your home and the area immediately. Don't use any electrical device such as a light switch, telephone, appliance or garage door opener. And don't try to find the leak yourself.

Who to call.

Go outside and use your cell phone, or a neighbor's phone, and call **NW Natural** at 800-882-3377.

Smell. Go. Let Us Know.
800-882-3377



NW Natural