



How to prepare for an extended power outage

At this time of year, hot and windy weather conditions are often forecast across our network and the likelihood of bushfires and power outages is increased.

During these times, our field crews and network control centre work under different practices driven by the fire danger index – or FDI – declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Bureau of Meteorology.

This means that planned works may be cancelled and power outages may be extended while we respond to the fault and/or wait for bushfire and heat-related risk conditions to ease to ensure the safety of the community and our crews

With this in mind, it's important to be prepared for an extended power outage.

Before the power outage

- Have a mobile phone fully charged on hand. Remember that cordless phones do not operate without mains power.
- Consider purchasing and charging a portable charger for your mobile phone.
- Get a fridge thermometer so you know if food is still safe to consume after a power outage.
- Consult with your service provider if you have a monitored security alarm without a backup battery. You could also investigate the use of a generator.
- Know how to manually operate automatic garage doors, or leave your car parked outside.
- Be aware that lifts and escalators may not operate during a power outage.
- Leave a light on inside your house so you know when power is restored.

- If you require consistent power for water supplies or medical reasons, consider having access to a generator.
- Ensure you have sufficient water supplies available, including for pets and livestock.

During the power outage

- Have an emergency kit ready containing a waterproof torch, first-aid kit, non-perishable food, water, required medication and a radio (battery-powered) with spare batteries.
- Unplug electrical appliances, especially those that have heating elements (e.g. kettle, oven).
- Switch off air conditioners so they are off when power is restored.
- Minimise opening and closing your fridge or freezer.
- Keep useful phone numbers on hand, such as the SES and your electricity provider.
- Unplug 'surge-sensitive' equipment such as computers and TVs to avoid potential damage.
- Keep across the news and emergency updates (on your mobile phone or radio).

After the power outage

- If you have solar panels, check that your system is back on after the outage.
- Check on your neighbours or anyone else you know who might need help.

Further advice and resources:

westernpower.com.au/extended-outage