



BUMPASS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Power Outage and Generator Checklist

The 20-foot rule and the rest of the outage

GENERATOR

- ☐ Outdoors only, at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.
- ☐ Never in a home or garage, even with the door open.
- ☐ Exhaust pointed away from the building.
- ☐ Off and cool before refueling.
- ☐ Heavy-duty outdoor cords; transfer switch by an electrician.

INSIDE

- ☐ CO alarms on every level, with battery backup.
- ☐ Flashlights, not candles.
- ☐ Never heat with the oven or a grill.

FOOD AND MEDICINE

- ☐ Refrigerator about four hours; full freezer about 48 hours.
- ☐ Discard food at 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more.
- ☐ Plan ahead for powered medical devices and refrigerated medicine.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911. Get out first, then call.

Non-emergency questions: 540-872-2400 | bumpassfire.org/safety/generator-safety

Sources: NFPA, Generator Safety tip sheet (PDF); CPSC, Carbon Monoxide Information Center; USFA, Severe Weather Fire Safety; USFA, Heating Fire Safety; Ready.gov, Power Outages.