



City of Bainbridge Island Storm Preparation Tips

December 16, 2008

With winter storms heading our way, now is the time to prepare for power outages and cold temperatures. Below are tips and helpful contact information to help you prepare yourself and your family for a possible power outage.

Be Prepared

- Prepare to be without power for at least five days. Stock up on food, water, batteries and fuel.
- During a power outage, unplug all lights and appliances, including washers, dryers and water heaters. Leave one light on so that you can tell when the power is restored. This can prevent a power surge and possible fire.
- Portable generators are an excellent source of backup power *if operated safely*. Operate generators outside and only use fresh gasoline - old gasoline may ignite. Store fuel outdoors only. Never attach a generator to the facility current. Visit www.kitsapdem.org for a video on generator safety.
- Use extreme care when refueling portable liquid fuel heaters. Let the heater cool completely before refueling, and refuel out of doors. Never leave portable or other space heaters operating when you are out of the room or when you go to bed.
- Keep cash and change on hand, and fuel in your car – ATMs and gas pumps may not work in a power outage.
- Flashlights are the safest form of alternate lighting. Never leave candles burning when you leave the room or go to bed. Use extreme care with candles if you have a gas-fueled water heater or furnace. Use a flashlight to check the pilot light, as a candle could ignite gas. Camping lanterns and stoves are designed for outdoor use and may give off carbon monoxide.
- Sign up for the County Department of Emergency Management's Alert and Warning System and the City of Bainbridge Island's Emergency Preparedness Listserv to receive emailed tips, emergency warnings and updates at www.kitsapdem.org and www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us.

Know Your Neighbors

Identify a designated meeting place, with an alternative heat source, for neighbors in need of heat or assistance, and arrange to check on senior citizens and other vulnerable neighbors. The Map Your Neighborhood program can help your neighborhood prepare to respond effectively to a power outage or other emergency situation; for more information, call (206)473-7818.

Puget Sound Energy

To report an outage, call Puget Sound Energy, 1-888-225-5773 or visit www.pugetsoundenergy.com.

- It is not necessary to call PSE more than once. Once you have reported an outage, please leave this line free for others.

- To speed restoration of power, turn off any lights, appliances (including water heater), holiday lights, etc. that were on before the outage, leaving on just one light so that you can tell when power is restored. This will help prevent overloading when power is restored.
- Puget Sound Energy asks that people **not approach their crews** while they are at work in the field. The crews cannot answer questions about restoration timelines, and interruptions delay work.

Shelters

Residents without power are encouraged to shelter with friends or relatives.

- Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management has opened a shelter at Presidents Hall at the Kitsap Fairgrounds. The shelter is primarily intended for the homeless, but all are welcome. Shelter hours are 6 pm to 7am.
- If power outages and weather conditions warrant, additional local warming shelters may be opened. Locations will be identified to respond to community needs. For more information, visit www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, or call 842-7633.

Helpline House

Helpline House operates during power outages when their staff is able to get to the facility. Their regular hours are 9 am – 5 pm; hours may be reduced during a power outage.

Storm Debris and Damage

In the Right of Way:

To report trees, debris or damage in the public right of way, contact Public Works Operations and Maintenance at 842-1212. City crews are not able to assist with debris on private property. People interested in ownership of downed trees are advised to contact the property owner.

Building damage:

Residents concerned about the safety or structural integrity of their homes resulting from storm damage should contact the City's Building Department at 842-2552.

Cable and Phone

For issues with cable or phone service, contact Comcast at 888-266-2278 or Qwest at 800-244-1111.

Resources

City of Bainbridge Island Emergency Information, (206)842-7633, www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us
 Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, (360)307-5870, www.kitsapdem.org
 Emergency Radio Bulletins: KITZ 1400, KOMO 1000, KIRO 710 Am, NOAA weather radio at code 053035.
 State of Washington Emergency Management Division, www.emd.wa.gov
 Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.fema.gov
 American Red Cross, www.redcross.org
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, www.nws.noaa.gov

If power is out for an extended period, the City of Bainbridge Island will distribute printed flyers with updates on shelter availability, safety tips and emergency response activities. Look for the orange Emergency Update boxes at: Safeway, Ace Hardware, Helpline House, the Bainbridge Island Commons/Senior Center, Walt's Lynwood Market, American Legion Hall, Island Center Hall, Bainbridge Athletic Club – Meadowmeer, Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church, Pt. Madison Lutheran Church, and Seabold United Methodist Church.

(Prepared from information provided by the American Red Cross and Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management.)