

# BE PREPARED



## Preparing Your Home



### When the power goes off

Check whether the power failure is limited to your home. If your neighbours' power is still on, check your circuit breakers or fuse box.

If the power outage is neighbourhood-wide, call Northland Utilities (day: 867-873-4865; Emergency 24h: 1-877-642-8802) about the outage so they can send the right crews and equipment to the right location.

### During a power outage

- Turn off all lights except for one inside and one outside your home.
- Never use a camp stove, barbecue, or propane/kerosene heater indoors. Deadly odourless carbon monoxide gases can build up and kill you.
- Candles can be a fire hazard. Flashlights are a better alternative.
- Sensitive equipment and electronics should be plugged into a surge protector.
- When the power lines are re-energized, sudden demand can cause breakers to trip. Turn off or unplug your appliances and entertainment units. Appliances that generate heat should be unplugged.

### Protect Your Plumbing

Water in pipes or toilet bowls may freeze during a long cold-weather power outage. Your house will cool from the top down. This means that toilets and plumbing on upper floors are more vulnerable. If the outage is a shorter one, leaving a tap running slowly will keep water moving.

## **Keep the water moving**

Before a power outage, make sure the water lines under your home are properly insulated. The City's water supply is powered by backup generators to make sure it continues to flow during a power outage. Most homes in Yellowknife have dual water lines connected to a circ pump. When the power goes out, it is important to draw water from both water lines in order to prevent a freeze up. For detailed information, read the City's Water Line Freeze Protection brochure at [yellowknife.ca](http://yellowknife.ca).

## **Heat Sources**

### **Propane Stove**

You can turn on a burner to warm water, but do not use it to heat your house. Never use any propane heaters or barbecues inside your home for heat because they emit carbon monoxide, a harmful and potentially deadly gas.

### **Propane Fireplace**

Most new propane fireplace models will function without power. Their fans won't work, but most generate enough radiant heat to make a difference.

### **Woodstove**

Set aside some firewood as part of an emergency pile. Energy-efficient fireplaces and stoves are a safer and more efficient choice. A new woodstove is an excellent heat source. Heat-generated fans can be placed on top of the woodstove to direct hot air within your home.

### **Pellet Stove**

Have a back-up power system or battery that you can plug the stove into, so your pellet auger and fan continue to operate.

## **After an Outage**

- Expect a momentary power fluctuation when electricity is restored.
- Check your refrigerator and freezer to make sure they have power. Dedicated circuit breakers for larger appliances may trip when the power goes out.
- Turn on or plug in your appliances after 15 minutes.