

Episode 3 PP

Preparing for Power Outages

Intro:

Welcome to episode 3 of the Prepping Positively Podcast! I'm Annie and today we are going to talk about how you can become better prepared for power outages. Here we go.

Hi and welcome back. It is now June of 2022 and for those of us in central Florida that marks the start of hurricane season. For us it is that time of year we dread when we have no idea what to expect next. It could be just a tropical storm or a full-fledged hurricane.

Either way, the most common crisis if you would that we have to deal with is a power outage. These can last from a few hours to a few weeks, depending on the size of the storm and the amount of damage it brought with it.

But hurricanes are not the only event that can bring about a power outage. Fires, flooding, a local accident, or even an old tree falling on a power line can cause power outages. So today I thought I would talk about what you can do to be prepared for a power outage in your home.

Let's first of all think about how you are actually affected by a power outage. I live on a large piece of rural property so we do not have city water. We rely on a well. So if there is no power, there is absolutely no way to get water. Now, some people are fortunate enough to be able to have a hand pump installed, however we are sitting on a large line of limestone and other rock so a hand pump is impossible. We are looking into solar, but it may be a bit before I can afford the expense.

The solution for us is bottled water. Because we prep regularly for just about anything, we always have cases of 16 oz bottles of water as well as 5-gallon jugs on hand. The rule of thumb is to have one gallon per person per day.

We also fill our bathtubs up with water and any buckets or jugs. These are for bathing, cleaning and flushing. We also have an outdoor shower that we can hang a bucket on which drips into a hose with a shower head for a quick cleanup if need be.

Now that works for us, but the animals need water too, right?

In order to provide enough water for all of the animals we raise, we installed rain barrels. These barrels collect rainwater from our house, our chicken coop, our sheds, and our tiny house. Usually there is enough water collected during the storm to fill all of those rain barrels and it is usually just enough to keep the animals with water.

I will admit to you, we also have a lake in the back. A rather large lake actually. Now I wouldn't want to drink the water from it, but it can provide enough for the animals if the rain barrels run out.

So we have covered water.

The next area to talk about is light. During the day is ok because the sun usually lights up your home enough to see. But what about in the evenings?

You have options here. We have emergency candles on hand for that instant the lights go out. They are in sconces on the walls in our home or in jars, ready to be lit in an instant. We also have these really cool pop up lanterns that operate on batteries in each room. These are really cool lanterns. They come in a package of four. There are 2 small ones, kind of child sized, and 2 large ones. I keep the large ones in the kitchen and living room and the small ones in the bedroom and bathroom. When we need to use them you just hold the base and pull up on the top and voila, light. And let me tell you that even the little one's light up an entire room.

I'll put the name and information on these lights and anything we talk about in the resources page for this episode.

Other lighting options we utilize are solar motion lights. We have these installed at our rabbit hutches, our chicken coop, our pig pens, our sheds and of course around our house. These are always charged by the sun, so they are always available to come on at night if we need to go somewhere on the property in the evening when we have no power.

Again, we got ours at Walmart for around \$23.00 each. We are in the process of adding these to our pool area and each of the porches on our house.

So we covered water and light. Next let's talk about heat.

Now where I live, heat is not something we try to create all that often, however, we are still prepared for it.

One way we can produce heat is to turn on the gas stove on low and keep the oven ajar. We try not to do this but in a pinch, it's heat!

We also have a wood stove installed. This works as a double purpose item for us as we can heat our home and cook on the top if need be.

Another way you can produce heat for your home is to use a generator. This way you can run an electric heater on an extension cord into your home. That generator also will provide a way to provide an electric light if needed.

Another area that needs to be addressed is your food. With a power outage that lasts more than 3 or 4 days, you will start losing any food in the fridge or freezer. Actually depending on the temperatures, you could start losing food sooner than that.

One option is again a generator which can be placed outside, at least 20 feet from any open window or door. Then you can plug a fridge or freezer into it. The downfall to a generator is the gas you will use.

Remember that no power means you may not have access to gas at the store. So when the gas is out, the generator is useless. We keep our gas cans filled at all times. However, during hurricane season, we make sure we have extra. We have run out of gas for the generator a few times already.

If you are in a state such as Florida, root cellars are impossible. The ground stays entirely too warm to keep food cold enough. The only option is coolers and ice, but by the time the fridge food needs to come out, the ice will probably be gone too.

So what do you do about food? We keep a supply of non-perishable food on hand. Tuna, raviolis, canned chicken, beans, soups, beef jerky, and snacks. We also have a lot of dehydrated veggies, fruit and cereals as well as rice, dried beans and mixes. These can be reconstituted with water or broth and can be cooked over an open fire, on a grill in a smoker, or in a gas stove.

As far as any extras or leftovers, well we treat the dogs and cats.

So now you have the basics to be prepared for a power outage. Don't worry if you didn't remember it all. I put together a checklist to have on hand in the event of a power outage. You can find it by going to <https://roadtoreliance.com/podcast> and searching for Episode 3. There you can download the transcript, find some additional resources and download the free checklist too.

The checklist has some items I didn't mention today but that you may want to consider, and even some extra space for you to add more items you may want to have on hand.

If you enjoyed today's episode, make sure to hit that follow button so you don't miss a single episode and leave me a rating which helps others to find me as well.

I hope this episode helped you learn how to prepare for a power outage in your home. Until. Next week, stay happy, stay healthy, and as always, stay positive. I believe in you!