Power Outage Preparedness (337 words)

**Power Outage Preparedness**

**Know the Hazards**

**Power outages can impact:**

* Water supply
* Food safety and storage
* Medication refrigeration
* Ability to use durable medical equipment
* Communication infrastructure and ability to charge cell phones
* Driving conditions when traffic signals are not working
* Ability to charge electric vehicles
* Electric powered garage doors

**Plan ahead**

**Take the following steps to prepare for power outages:**

**Build a Kit**

* Build a basic emergency kit - a list of suggested items is on the back of this handout.

**Medical supplies**

* Invest in a back-up generator or other power source for critical items like durable medical equipment.
* Use an ice chest or back-up power to keep medications stored at the correct temperature.

**Food Safety**

* Have a supply of non-perishable foods that can be prepared and stored without electricity or refrigeration.
* Dispose of refrigerated/frozen food if power has been out for 4+ hours.

**Transportation**

* Try to keep electric vehicles or other transportation devices charged as much as possible, or fill up your tank on gas powered vehicles before severe weather or planned outages.

**IF ALL ELSE FAILS, LEAVE YOUR HOME AND GO TO A FRIEND, NEIGHBOR, HOTEL, OR SHELTER WHERE POWER OUTAGES ARE NOT OCCURRING TO ACCESS POWER.**

**What to Expect**

During power outages, information is accessible through your electrical utility provider. Learn more by calling or visiting your provider’s website.

**Providers in Boulder County:**

* **Longmont Power and Communications** - www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments
* **Lyons Municipal Light and Power** - www.townoflyons.com/174/utilities
* **Poudre Valley REA** - www.pvrea.coop
* **United** - www.unitedpower.com
* **Xcel Energy** - https://co.my.xcelenergy.com

**Emergency Kit Supplies for Power Outages**

* Non-perishable food items
* Water (1 gallon per person per day)
* Battery-powered lighting (flashlight, lantern, etc.) and extra batteries
* Battery-powered radio
* Phone battery power bank
* NOAA weather radio
* Sleeping bag/blankets
* Manual can opener
* Essential medications

**Shelters and Information**

Check the Boulder Office of Disaster Management website for information and any shelter openings at [www.boulderodm.gov](http://www.boulderodm.gov).

**Back-Up Battery Program**

For financial assistance for back-up power sources look into back-up battery programs offered in Colorado, or visit [www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness](http://www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness)

For more preparedness information visit [www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness](http://www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness)

