



KENDALL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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What to do in the event of a power outage:

1. Before the outage occurs.....

- Keep flashlights and candles on hand for light.
- If you know you're about to lose power, consider turning cooler and freezer thermostats to their coldest settings, quickly dropping temperatures (don't forget to return thermostats to original settings once power is restored).

2. Once the power is out.....

- Immediately notify the power company.
- Turn off any equipment in operation at time of power outage (i.e., slicer).
- **Cease food service operations until power is restored** (the loss of mechanical refrigeration can adversely affect the quality and safety of food), **OR...**

3. Use these tips to keep foods cold and safe to serve.....

- Open cooler and freezer doors only to take out food, to move it to a drained cooler with potable ice, or to add dry ice (please use caution).
- Monitor the temperatures of coolers and freezers carefully. Ambient air temperature needs to be 39° F or less to maintain a safe product temp of 41°F or less.
- Freezers need to maintain 0° F or less. If a frozen, potentially hazardous food is thawed and still at or below 41°F, the food may be cooked and used immediately.
- Consider the purchase of an emergency generator.
- Consider developing an emergency menu that is easy to prepare with minimal ingredients.
- Rent a refrigerated truck.
- **Potentially hazardous foods remaining in the danger zone (41°F to 135°F) longer than a total of two hours may be a risk and must be discarded. When in doubt, throw it out!**