



# Storm Preparedness

## Topics

- Be Prepared
- Outage Center
- How to Protect Yourself During a Power Outage
- Medical Needs Preparedness
- Emergency Preparedness Resources
- Emergency Kit

## Be Prepared

The BLP routinely receives recognition for its award-winning reliability. However, no electric utility is immune to power outages that occur from severe weather. In those unfortunate events, our customers could be without power for extended periods, so it is important to plan ahead and be prepared.



## Outage Center

Visit our Outage Center at [ghblp.org](http://ghblp.org), and click on the yellow plug to report an outage, along with accessing other resources such as:

- View Outage Map
- Report An Outage
- Understanding Utility-Owned Equipment vs. Homeowners' Equipment
- Power Outage Resources



During large power outages, the BLP will post regular updates on our Facebook page to keep you informed.



Stay in touch with us at [facebook.com/GrandHavenBLP](https://facebook.com/GrandHavenBLP).

**Grand Haven Board of Light & Power**

1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI | 616-846-6250 | [ghblp.org](http://ghblp.org)

# How to Protect Yourself During a Power Outage

## Preparing for a Power Outage

Take an inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity. Plan for batteries and other alternative power sources to meet your needs when the power goes out, such as a portable charger or power bank. Have flashlights for every household member. Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage and how long battery backups will last. If bad weather is forecasted, charge up your devices.

## Using Appliances During Power Outages

Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home. Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home. Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

## Medical Needs Preparedness

Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Find out how long medication can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.

GHBLP customers can sign up for Critical Care and Medical Emergency status to allow us to identify these customers in case an interruption should occur. Please fill out our Critical Care and Medical Emergency Identification form at [ghblp.org/policies/customer-service-policies](https://ghblp.org/policies/customer-service-policies).

## Emergency Preparedness Resources

- **Ottawa County Emergency Management**  
[miottawa.org/Sheriff/planning\\_preparedness.htm](https://miottawa.org/Sheriff/planning_preparedness.htm)
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
[fema.gov](https://fema.gov)
- **Power Outage Preparedness**  
[ready.gov/power-outages](https://ready.gov/power-outages)
- **Preparing for Severe Weather**  
[ready.gov/severe-weather](https://ready.gov/severe-weather)

## Emergency Kit

A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



Bottles of water

Nonperishable food

Portable phone charger

Flashlights

Batteries

Can opener



First-aid supplies

Hand sanitizer

Prescriptions

Pain reliever

Warm clothing

Blankets



Battery-operated radio

Toys, books and games

Important documents

Money

Baby supplies

Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

**Grand Haven Board of Light & Power**  
**616-846-6250 | [ghblp.org](https://ghblp.org)**

June 2024