



HAVING A BACKUP PLAN FOR MEDICAL DEVICES CAN BE LIFESAVING

The Grand Haven Board of Light and Power routinely receives recognition for its award-winning reliability. However, no electric utility is immune to power outages that could occur from events outside of the utility's control (i.e., severe weather or issues with the electric grid). In those unfortunate events, our customers could be without power, so it is important to plan and to prepare. This is especially important for customers who depend on electric medical equipment. Examples of lifesaving medical devices include oxygen concentrators, ventilators, dialysis machines, blood pumps, etc.

If you or someone in your household depends on life-sustaining medical equipment, please complete the **Critical Care and Medical Emergency Form at: www.ghblp.org/policies/customer-service-policies** and return it to the Board of Light and Power.

If power is interrupted beyond the utility's control, it is vitally important to have a backup plan in case of prolonged power outages. Backup safety tips include the following:

- Have an emergency plan in place with friends and family that outlines places you can go in the event of a long-term outage.
- Before an outage occurs, find out if the medical equipment safely runs on a backup power source and for how long (see manufacturer's recommendations).

- Keep a full charge on battery-powered devices or have extra batteries available.
- If recommended by the manufacturer, consider purchasing a portable battery pack to power devices.
- Gather related resources that will last for two weeks, including batteries, supplemental equipment and prescriptions.
- Realize that local shelters and hospitals that are also experiencing an outage may be at capacity and have limited resources, including auxiliary power.
- Think about the other special equipment you might need, such as coolers for refrigerated medicine.
- Like any important device, keep up regular maintenance.
- Keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer, serial numbers and photos of the device.

Learn more about preparing for an emergency by visiting our homepage at www.ghblp.org and clicking on the yellow plug for our Outage Center. There you will find Power Outage Resources prepared by federal and local emergency planning agencies.

