

## If the Electricity Stops Working

A storm is coming and the electricity may go off. Follow these directions to stay safe.

For help or information, dial 2-1-1 on your phone and say what language you speak. Someone will help you with your questions in your language.

### **Listen to the radio.**

- Have someone who understands English listen to the radio to find out what is happening and what you should do.

### **Get ready.**

- If you have a cell phone, charge it fully.
- Get flashlights and extra batteries for the flashlights.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and jugs with clean water. This water can be used for drinking, washing or cleaning the toilet.
- Fill your car's gas tank. If the electricity stops working, you may not be able to get gas.

### **When the electricity is off:**

- Do not call 9-1-1 to tell them there is no electricity. Only call 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger.
- If it is dark, it is best to use flashlights. You can use candles, but be careful not to start a fire. Keep candles away from children.
- Turn off small appliances like the TV or microwave that you were using when the electricity stopped working. Leave one light on to know when the electricity comes back on.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed to keep food cold.
- Do not use outside cooking grills inside. They can give off gases that can harm or kill you.
- If your electricity does not come back on for days, you may need to move to a shelter or go to a home that has electricity.
- Be careful if you drive. If traffic lights are off, each intersection becomes a four-way stop.

### **After the electricity comes back on:**

- Turn on appliances one by one 15 minutes after the electricity is back on.
- Be careful when cleaning up. Stay away from fallen electricity lines.

### **Be careful about food.**

- If the electricity has been out for more than four hours, food in your refrigerator will not be safe to eat.
- If your freezer is full, food will stay frozen for about two days (48 hours). If your freezer is half-full, food will stay frozen and about one day (24 hours). These foods will be safe to eat.
- After the power comes back on, clean your refrigerator and freezer very well. You can use 2 tablespoons of baking soda mixed with 4 cups of warm water. Wipe all jars, bottles and containers before putting them back in the refrigerator.
- Throw away any food that may not be safe to eat. If you are not sure, throw it out.