

PREPARING FOR A PLANNED OUTAGE

Parkland Light & Water Company (PL&WCo) strives to deliver low cost, reliable electric service to our members and customers. However, all electric utility companies find it necessary to interrupt service to perform maintenance or make repairs from time to time. These outages are infrequent and kept to as brief an amount of time as possible. The Board of Trustees and Staff realize the inconvenience that the interruption of electric service is to business operators and private residences alike. They also realize the greater inconvenience that is possible when proper measures are not taken to build reliability into the electrical system and electrical outages occur unexpectedly.

To help you prepare for a planned outage, here are a few suggested steps that you may choose to take to make the outage time less inconvenient and safe.

1. Have flashlights with fresh batteries handy.
2. Keep your freezer and refrigerator door closed as much as possible. A freezer will keep its contents frozen for many hours without electricity. Your refrigerator will keep food cold at safe levels as well when the door is kept closed as much as possible.
3. Log off of your computer at least a half hour before the electrical outage to avoid losing any stored data. It is recommended you unplug electronics during the outage. It is also recommended that surge protectors should be included with normal operation of electronics in your home or business.
4. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Remember that if you have a cordless land line phone, it may not ring for an incoming call during an electrical outage.
5. Insure that the following appliances are not in operation prior to the outage: stove, oven, clothes dryer, dishwasher, space heaters, iron, washing machine and any other electrical appliance other than the freezer, refrigerator. Having the suggested appliances off before the outage will help prevent them from coming back on should you decide to leave the premises during the outage. It also helps the Lineman get the system back on quicker when the system does not experience a large amount of cold load pick up.
6. Turn your furnace thermostat down until the electricity has been restored and try to wait 15 minutes or so before turning the thermostat back to normal levels. This also helps reduce cold load pickup when the system is re-energized.
7. If you have medical support equipment that is dependant on electricity, be ready to implement your back-up plan to maintain the use of the equipment as you would during an unscheduled electric outage such as may occur during a wind storm.
8. If you have a generator, **do not try to energize your house through wall sockets.** This can only be accomplished safely with properly installed equipment by a licensed electrician.
9. **NEVER** try to heat your home with any gas, propane, charcoal, or kerosene heater without proper ventilation.
10. **NEVER** try to cook indoors with a barbeque – either propane or charcoal.

11. Do not use candles to light your home and do not use lanterns unless the room is well ventilated and please supervise children at all times around any device used to provide heat or light.
12. On the day of the outage, plan to go visit a friend or relative, take the family out for the day, use creative ideas to make an adventure out of the outage for children.

Most of all be safe, be patient and know that Parkland Light & Water Company is taking every measure possible to restore your electric service as quickly and safely as possible whether the outage is scheduled or unscheduled.