



What To Do When the Power Goes Out

If a power outage occurs, Pella Cooperative Electric recommends:

- Calling Pella Cooperative Electric at 641-628-1040 or 800-619-1040 to report the outage – even if you think a neighbor already has done so.
- Turning off the stove, oven and other appliances (except the refrigerator and freezer, unless they're empty) to prevent heavy startup loads that could cause secondary blackouts when power is restored.
- Unplugging sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, TVs and other home entertainment equipment to avoid damage to them when power is restored.
- Keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed to prevent food from spoiling.
- Leaving one light turned on, so you'll know when the power is restored.
- Select a room on the warm side of the house away from prevailing winds to wait out the outage.
- Keeping curtains and exterior doors closed.
- Wearing layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration and the resulting chills.
- If you have an unvented, fuel-burning space heater, placing it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface—not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Cross-ventilate by opening a window an inch on each side of the room; it's better to let some cold air in than to run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, never leave a space heater unattended or within the reach of children or pets – and turn it off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- If temperatures fall to near freezing in your home, open all faucets slightly so they drip. This minimal water flow will help prevent pipes from freezing.
- Closing off as many rooms as possible, unless you are using an unvented, fuel-burning space heater. Then you should keep the doors open to the rest of the house, to help prevent pollutant and carbon monoxide buildup.
- Do not use your stove, oven, cooktop, outdoor grill, camping stove or any other fuel-, charcoal- or wood-burning cooking equipment to try to produce usable heat inside your home. The carbon monoxide these devices produce could be fatal within in a matter of minutes.
- Use your fireplace if you have one. Otherwise, make sure the flue is closed.
- Don't use candles for lighting; they can cause a fire. Use a flashlight or battery-powered camping lantern instead.

Anyone who may be without power for any extended amount of time is encouraged to relocate to a nearby emergency shelter. Consumers in Marion County may contact the local emergency management coordinator at 641-891-2256. Outside of Marion County, call the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1 (800) 447-1985 or 211, or visit <http://www.bereadyiowa.org/winterstorm.asp> to locate a shelter in their area.

In addition, Pella Cooperative Electric advises the public to stay away from downed power lines and other equipment as they could cause serious injury.