Check. Plan. Do.

# **Power Outage Plan:** Keeping safe when the power goes out

Power outages can happen unexpectedly, leaving you without essential services and disrupting your daily life. It's important to have a Plan in place to stay informed, and safe. This Plan will help you prepare on six key areas:



Under each area is a Goal and the main actions you can take called 'What You Can Do' to achieve this Goal. The My Plan section is where you record the actions. Once this is completed you can tick Done so you know which part of your Plan is completed. With practical steps and questions to consider, you'll be ready to manage any power outage while keeping your household safe and comfortable as possible. Let's get started and make sure you're prepared!

OUTAGE PLAN

## **My Plan**

Household address:

Household members (including pets!):

Plan Owner/s name:

Plan Owner/s phone:

Plan Owner/s email:

## 1. People

**The Goal:** Your household and close community is informed, safe, and supported during a power outage.



What You Can Do	My Plan			Done 🧭
Power outage information:	My energy provider is:			$\bigcirc$
Make sure you know who your energy provider is and write	Phone:			
down their phone number, website and sign up for				
updates/news.	Web:			
<b>TIP!</b> Visit the website poweroutageplan.com.au and		Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
go to 'More Information' to find your energy provider.	l have signed up for updates / news	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	C

## 1. People continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Make sure there is a plan owner:	The person or people in charge of the Plan:	$\bigcirc$
Choose someone (ideally more than 1) in your household to oversee the Power Outage Plan. This person is the 'Plan Owner.'		
Talk about it:	When the power goes out, our household has agreed to:	$\bigcirc$
Sit down as a household and go through the plan together. Make sure each person understands their responsibilities. <b>TIP!</b> Don't forget to include your pets in your plans.		
Check on people who are vulnerable:	<b>Our household</b> people who need extra help	$\bigcirc$
List anyone who may need extra help (e.g., older	Name #1:	
adults, people with medical conditions, or neighbours living alone that you know).	How to contact them:	
Consider how you can contact them when the power is out.	Help they need:	
Keep their contact details written down.		

## 1. People continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Check on people who are vulnerable:	Name #2:	
List anyone who may need extra help (e.g., older	How to contact them:	
adults, people with medical conditions, or neighbours living alone that you know).	Help they need:	
Consider how you can contact them when the power is out.	Name #3:	
Keep their contact details written down.	How to contact them:	
	Help they need:	
	<b>Our neighbourhood</b> people who need extra help	$\bigcirc$
	Name #1:	
	How to contact them:	
	Help they need:	-
	Name #2:	
	How to contact them:	
	Help they need:	

## 1. People continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Check on people who are vulnerable continued	Name #3:	
vuinerable continued	How to contact them:	
	Help they need:	
If you live on your own, plan with your friends, family or a	The people who will check on me are:	$\bigcirc$
support person and decide who can check in on you.	Name #1:	
Consider how they can		
contact you when the power is out.	How to contact me:	
	Name #2:	
	How to contact me:	

## 2. Essentials

#### The Goal:

You have access to food, water, medication, and energy sources during an outage.



What You Can Do	My Plan			Done ⊘
Non-perishable food & water:	I will access drinking water by:			$\bigcirc$
Keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and drinking water for everyone, including pets.	l will access water for washing, hygiene, and cooking by:			
<b>TIP!</b> If you have dietary requirements, consider more				
than a 3-day supply.	I have at least 3 days' supply	y of:		
TIP! Is your water or sewerage reliant on electricity and		Yes	No	
pumps? Do you need a generator in the event of an extended outage?	Non-perishable food	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Pet food (if needed)	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	If I'm reliant on electric water/ sewage pumps, do I have a generator?	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Alternative cooking methods:	When the power is out, I wil drinks by:	ll heat fo	od or	$\bigcirc$
Have a back-up cooking method such as a camping stove or BBQ ready for use during a power outage.				
<b>TIP!</b> Make sure you have enough gas/fuel for these.				
<b>TIP!</b> Do you have a safe way to heat baby formula or milk if you need it?				

### 2. Essentials continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	My Plan		
Food preservation: Use coolers or Eskys with ice packs if the outage extends beyond a few hours. TIP! Keep doors to fridges/ freezers closed to keep them cold in a power outage.	When the power is out, I will preserve food in my fridge and freezer by:			$\bigcirc$
<b>Health and wellbeing:</b> Have a First-aid Kit and keep	I have at least 3 days' supply	I have at least 3 days' supply of:		
at least three days' worth of prescription medications		Yes	No	
and medical supplies on hand. Remember pet medications too.	Prescription medications	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
<b>TIP!</b> If you rely on critical medical equipment, you may need a <b>Life Support Power</b>	<b>TIP!</b> Check the label for storage, keep medications cool if they need to be refrigerated			
Outage Plan <u>learn more here</u> . TIP! Add your doctor/s phone	First-aid Kit	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
and email to your emergency contact list.	Other potential medications e.g. Paracetamol or antihistamine	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Toilet paper	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Hand sanitizer	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Sanitary products	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Pet medications (if needed)	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	

### 2. Essentials continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan			Done 🧭
Health and wellbeing continued	<b>Other</b> (list anything else imp health e.g. disinfectant)			
		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Get vehicles ready:		Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
Before predicted weather events make sure you have enough petrol in your vehicles. If you have an	l have enough petrol/ charge in my vehicle/s	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	C
electric vehicle, make sure it's fully charged.	If I need alternative transpo	ort, I will:		$\bigcirc$
<b>TIP!</b> Have a back-up transport option if needed.				U

## **3.** Communication

#### The Goal:

You can communicate with family, friends, and emergency contacts during a power outage.



What You Can Do	My Plan			Done ⊘
Back-up power: Keep a portable charger, car charger, or power bank handy for your phone during a power outage. TIP! Before predicted weather events make sure you have enough charge/power to your phone or devices.	When the power goes out, I will charge my phone by:			$\bigcirc$
<b>Battery-powered radio:</b> Use a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to stay informed about weather and emergency alerts if phone or internet service fails.	l have a battery-powered radio or a hand-crank radio	Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
<b>TIP!</b> Visit <u>reception.abc.net.</u> <u>au</u> to find your local radio frequency. Write it down e.g. ABC Pilbara 603 AM and stick it to the radio. You can also tune the frequency to one of your car radio preset stations.				

### 3. Communication continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Household communication:	Name #1:	$\bigcirc$
Agree how everyone in the household will communicate		
and what actions to take if the power goes out.	l agree to:	
<b>TIP!</b> Think about when people are at work, school, childcare, shopping, etc.		
		$\frown$
	Name #2:	$\bigcirc$
	l agree to:	
	Name #3:	$\bigcirc$
	l agree to:	

### 3. Communication continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Household communication continued	Name #4:	$\bigcirc$
	l agree to:	
	Name #5:	$\bigcirc$
	l agree to:	
	Name #6:	$\bigcirc$
	I agree to:	

### 3. Communication continued...

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
<b>Community communication:</b> Have a plan with people in your local community to	If the internet or phone goes down, I will contact this person/group in my local area	$\bigcirc$
share contact details and how to check on one another in a	Name:	
power outage. <b>TIP!</b> Are there local groups you can join who can help with this?	How to contact them:	
<b>TIP!</b> You can also share this Plan with your neighbours	If the internet or phone goes down, I can be contacted by:	$\bigcirc$
Consider how you can contact them when the power		
is out.	I have shared this Plan with:	$\bigcirc$
<b>Out-of-area communication:</b> Ask someone outside your local area to be your main	If the internet or phone goes down, the go-to person outside my local area who can be contacted in case of emergency is:	$\bigcirc$
contact if your phone lines fail. Make sure everyone in	Name:	
your household knows who this is.	How I will contact them:	
	How family/loved ones can contact them:	
	How they will contact my household:	

## 4. Light

#### The Goal:

You have access to light to keep you safe when the power goes out.

What You Can Do	My Plan			Done ⊘
Torches and lanterns:		Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
Keep torches or battery- powered lanterns in your home where they are easy-to- find.	l have lights I can use, besides candles	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	U
<b>TIP!</b> Make sure you have spare batteries or torches charged.	l have a torch or lantern in my emergency or	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
<b>TIP!</b> Try not to use candles as they can be a fire risk.	evacuation pack			
Keep back up lights going: Use LED battery-powered lanterns and have spare batteries for flashlights, radios, and other devices.	l have LED battery- powered light sources	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
	l have extra batteries	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
<b>Organise back-up lights:</b> Place back-up lights in easily	l have back-up lights placed areas at home	d in thes	$\bigcirc$	
accessible places so that they can be found quickly in the		Yes	No	
dark.	Bedrooms	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Living Room	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Kitchen	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	<b>Other</b> (e.g. bathroom, shed, fuse box)	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	

# 5. Comfort

## The Goal:

Your household can be calm and comfortable dealing with heat or cold during a power outage.



What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Temperature regulation:	Ideas to stay warm are:	$\bigcirc$
Consider ways to stay warm or cool during the outage depending on the season	<ul> <li>Layer clothing</li> </ul>	$\bigcirc$
	<ul> <li>Use blankets or sleeping bags</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Close curtains</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Seal drafts/gaps with towels or fabric</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Use hot water bottles</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Stay in one room and conserve heat</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Move around to boost warmth</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Wear a hat and keep my head covered</li> </ul>	
	Ideas to stay cool are:	$\bigcirc$
	<ul> <li>Wear light clothes</li> </ul>	$\bigcirc$
	<ul> <li>Use battery-powered/USB-charged hand-held fans</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Close curtains and block out the sun</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Drink plenty of water</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Use a cold compress to pulse points</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Stay in one room (the coolest area of the home)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Use ice packs</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Avoid physical activities</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Take cool showers</li> </ul>	

What You Can Do	My Plan	Done ⊘
Coping strategies:	Ideas to stay calm are:	$\bigcirc$
Think about personal strategies that help you remain calm in stressful situations.	<ul> <li>Listen to relaxing music</li> </ul>	$\bigcirc$
	<ul> <li>Read a book, magazine</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Play board games with others</li> </ul>	
<b>TIP!</b> Consider strategies for children and pets.	<ul> <li>Write down ideas and information</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Practise deep breathing, sitting quietly</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Get together with neighbours</li> </ul>	
	If safe, get outdoors:	
	<ul> <li>Go to the beach/pool/river</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Go to a park</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Go for a ride/jog/walk</li> </ul>	
	For children:	
	<ul> <li>Games, colouring, storytelling</li> </ul>	

For mental health support during or after a power outage contact Beyond Blue for free and confidential mental health counselling to anyone in Australia via phone (1300 224 636), online chat, and email, someone will respond to your email within 24-hours.

# 6. Surroundings

## The Goal:

Maintain safety and functionality of your home during a power outage.



What You Can Do	My Plan			Done ⊘
Manual overrides:	I know how to manually operate:			$\bigcirc$
Know how to manually open or close gates, garage doors, or doors when there is no power.	f f f f galage door by.			Ŭ
	My electric gate by:			
	Other	b	y:	
Turn off appliances:		Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
Switch off at the power point and consider the use of good quality surge protection.	l will switch off appliances in a power outage	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	U
<b>TIP!</b> Consider a back-up power supply for any important appliances.	I have surge protection	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	For important appliances I have back-up power (TIP! Name these appliances)	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	

What You Can Do	My Plan			Done ⊘
Safe walkways:		Yes	No	$\bigcirc$
Keep paths, doorways and thoroughfares inside and outside your house clear so that you can safely move around your house in low lighting.	l have cleared walkways inside	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	l have cleared walkways outside	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Safety precautions: Secure any potential hazards, such as loose furniture, outdoor structures, or falling debris. TIP! Do not go near damaged power lines or power poles or other electricity equipment, e.g. substations.	To keep our home safer when the power goes out, our household has agreed to: (TIP! You can add specific jobs / responsibilities for each person):		$\bigcirc$	
Evacuation plan: Prepare a plan for evacuation if needed, and practice and review it. Include packing essential items such as documents and a stocked First-aid Kit. TIP! Consider keeping documents in a waterproof container.	lf I need to evacuate, I wi	ll go to:		$\bigcirc$

What You Can Do	My Plan			Done 🔗
Evacuation plan continued	<b>To get there I will:</b> I have essential items packed in my emergency or evacuation pack, including:		$\bigcirc$	
		Yes	No	
	First-aid Kit	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	ID	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Medical documents	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Cash	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	Torch	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
	The last time I reviewed	these wa	as:	$\bigcirc$
	The last time I (and the h practised this was:	ousehol	d)	$\bigcirc$
Your plan: Keep a copy of your Plan and a printed or written list of emergency contacts (including your doctor/s) with a torch where it's easy to find.	l keep a copy of my Plan and emergency contacts with a torch, here:		$\bigcirc$	