

# LIFE WITHOUT POWER

*Disasters happen anytime and anywhere.*

*When disaster strikes, it is easier to cope when you are prepared. Get Ready! Saginaw County recommends knowing what to do when the power goes out.*

## ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO HAVE WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

- Flashlight (*due to the risk of fire, do not use candles*)
- Batteries
- Portable Radio
- At least one gallon of water per person
- A small supply of food

## ACTION STEPS TO TAKE IN PREPARATION FOR A POWER OUTAGE

- Backup computer files and operating systems regularly.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual release lever and learn how to use it.
- Have at least one phone that is not powered by electricity (an old rotary phone, for example). Cordless phones may not work if the main base is electric.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

## WHAT TO DO DURING A BLACKOUT

- ✓ Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out.
- ✓ Leave one light turned on so you know when the power returns.
- ✓ Leave the doors of the refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible.
- ✓ Use the phone for emergencies only.
- ✓ Listen to a portable radio for the latest information. Do not call 911 for information.
- ✓ If it is hot outdoors, take steps to remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home as cool air falls. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- ✓ If it is cool outdoors, put on layers of warm clothing.
- ✓ Remember to provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets.

