

Disaster Preparedness

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) suggests everyone be prepared in case of a power outage or an emergency situation that may interrupt utility services. Proper planning can help, and the PSC offers the following tips:

- In your Home**
- Stock up on non-perishable food (such as canned meats and vegetables).
 - Keep a flashlight, working radio, extra batteries, and candles on hand.
 - Keep a supply of drinking water in case the water supply is contaminated.

- Keeping in Contact**
- Keep a list of phone numbers for police, fire and emergency personnel.
 - Develop an evacuation plan in case you have to leave your home.
 - Call relatives or emergency officials if you need a place to stay.

- Other things to Remember**
- If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment, check with your utility provider about back-up power sources.
 - Make arrangements for the care of infants, the elderly or disabled.
 - Keep your car fueled in case there is a need to evacuate the area.

PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has a Consumer Guide, *“Consumers & Catastrophes: Understanding the Impact to you, Your Family, and Your Utilities,”* prepared by NARUC’s Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest.

The guide is organized by disaster type and has nine appendices that can be used to highlight critical tips when they are needed. It also contains detailed information on how to develop emergency plans, food safety and how to assemble emergency kits.

