

Disaster Homepack

During an emergency created by nature no utility can guarantee uninterrupted service. Prince George residents concerned about service problems can get prepared in the same manner as they would for an emergency resulting from any circumstance:

- ❑ Have enough drinking water on hand to keep your household supplied for at least three days. Each adult will consume about four litres per day, children somewhat less; this does not include water used for washing or flushing a toilet.
- ❑ Keep enough non-perishable food to last at least three days. Remember that some canned and pre-packaged food requires water to prepare. Also consider that, in case of an emergency that keeps you off the roads for any length of time (an earthquake or heavy snowstorm), water and power might be off as well.
- ❑ If you decide to install a generator in case of electrical service disruption, the installation should be done by a licensed tradesman. Such portable sources can be dangerous if improperly installed.
- ❑ Try to ensure that an alternate heat source is available during winter months. To avoid the build-up of carbon monoxide, make sure proper ventilation is available for fireplaces and wood stoves.
- ❑ If the heat goes off, try to close off most of the house and keep open the minimum number of rooms for living space. During winter months, keep plenty of blankets and warm clothing on hand at all times, in case of interruptions to gas or electric service.
- ❑ Don't forget to keep on hand a manual can opener, candles and/or flashlights for light and a first aid kit in case of injury. Also consider keeping a supply of necessary medication on hand.
- ❑ Get together with your neighbours and talk about a community plan to take care of each other during an emergency. A loose Block Watch-style organization might make a big difference to elderly residents, shut-ins or children who might be cut off from their parents or guardians during a heavy snowstorm or power outage.
- ❑ Have a battery-powered radio on hand so you can listen for information from local emergency officials.
- ❑ Make arrangements for contact with family members during an emergency. Telephone service might be interrupted, so try to arrange a central meeting place in case of emergency. If residential phone lines are down, pay phones may work.