

# Public Service Announcement

---

## Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Encourages Residents to think “Safety” during Power Outages

(Thursday, September 15, 2005)

C Have a battery operated smoke alarm, as well as spare batteries for radios, etc.

C Use battery operated lights, rather than candles, or oil lamps.

### **Candle Safety** (Only Use With Extreme Caution)

C Ensure candles are secured in a sturdy candle holder that won't tip or burn.

C Be careful about the type of candle holder, as some glass bowl types have been known to crack, or break from the heat as the candle burns down, possibly causing a fire.

C Candles or oil lamps should not be placed on window sills, as the proximity to curtains is not safe.

C Don't place candles near combustibles, or in unstable locations such as a couch or chair.

C Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

C Never leave candles burning unattended.

### **Portable space heaters:**

C Ensure heating appliances are approved for indoor use, and maintain proper clearances from combustibles (as per manufacturers instructions).

- Never refuel your heater inside the home, and only after it has cooled.

C Remember that carbon monoxide can kill even though you can not smell it! Don't bring your propane tanks inside.

### **Generators**

C Ensure back up generators are installed by a qualified electrician, and follow the manufacturers safety instructions.

C Generators must remain outside and ensure fumes do not enter the house through exterior venting or nearby windows and doors.

C Make sure all circuits are turned off before starting the generator. Then only turn the circuits on that you will use.

### **Other Helpful Tips:**

C Residents should fill containers for drinking water and fill the bathtub (for flushing toilets) prior to a storm, especially if you are on a well.

C Have at least one basic phone that does not require power. (cordless phones require electricity)

C Cellular telephone circuits become extremely busy during emergencies. Emergency workers rely on cell phones to communicate and unnecessary calls may mean emergency personnel can't get through.

C Before the storm, turn your refrigerator and freezer settings to their coldest settings. This could buy some time to keep food from spoiling.

C Keep the freezer and fridge doors closed as much as possible..

C Keep a manual can opener for canned food.

C Learn how to open your garage door manually.

C Only use cooking and heating equipment certified for indoor use.

C Always assume that downed wires are live, and keep your distance from them.

- In case of emergencies dial **911**