

Home- Shelter in Place

Immediately After a Disaster

- Use a flashlight or battery-operated lantern. Do not use candles.
DO NOT turn on electrical switches. Check for fires, chemical spills and gas leaks.
- Shut off any damaged utilities.
- Turn off or unplug all major appliances (e.g., stove, refrigerator, dryer). They could be damaged by the electrical surge when the power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or have disabilities
- Call your out-of-town contacts and let them know you are okay.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not drive through flooded roads.
- Monitor local broadcasts for information about where you can get disaster relief assistance
 - Use portable generators cautiously. Make sure they are operated only out-of-doors in a well-ventilated area. Refuel a generator only after it has cooled. Do not connect a generator to your home's electrical system except through an approved transfer switch installed in compliance with the local electrical code.
- Financial Exploitation/Scams Unfortunately, after a disaster there may be some people who will try to take advantage of your vulnerability. Beware of high-pressure sales, disclosing personal financial information (account numbers and credit card information) and services provided with no written contract.
- For information on scams, go to www.ftc.gov.