

Winter's a comin'! What's your plan?

Power outages can occur at any time of year, of course, but they command our attention the most during our cold, dark, rainy winters.

If you were cold, hungry and possibly annoyed with yourself during the three day power outage last winter for not having developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan for your household, we hope you have since made a plan that will help you “weather” the next event more comfortably.

Planning in advance to shelter in place is the most effective way to be safe and reasonably comfortable under most circumstances. That plan should include alternative ways to provide for communications, water, food, light and heat. Recommendations for these items are on the Safety Committee's webpage of the [LWC website](#) under the EP Items & Tips tab.

- Frustrated at not knowing what was going on after we lost cell service last winter? Buy a two-way radio, become comfortable using it, and keep it charged so you can listen to periodic announcements from our Internal Communications System (ICS).
- Want to keep your devices charged so they are ready to use when cell service is restored? Consider buying a portable charger just for electronic devices, a power station which will charge them and rechargeable lights, or perhaps a portable generator to run your heater and refrigerator.

When you are prepared for a 3-5 day local power outage, you will have the foundation of a plan for the 2-4 weeks events for which Oregon's Be2WeeksReady program recommends we all prepare.