



An Extended Guide · No. 1739

Backup Power for a Chair or Scooter

Keeping your mobility
charged and ready

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — this is not medical advice

This guide is about keeping the power on — it is not medical advice, and it is not a substitute for a plan made with the people who know your health. Make your backup-power plan together with your doctor and your equipment supplier, and follow their guidance on your specific device, its settings, and how much backup you need. Register ahead of time on your electric utility's medical or priority-restoration list. And please never rely on a backup battery alone for life-sustaining equipment: a battery buys you time, it does not replace care. If the power is out and anyone's health is at risk — trouble breathing, chest pain, confusion, or bluish lips — call 911, or get to a hospital or shelter that has power. Keeping your chair or scooter charged is about independence and safety — but how you use and care for it stays with your supplier and doctor, and if health is ever at risk, call 911.

Keeping your wheels rolling in an outage

A power wheelchair or mobility scooter is more than equipment — it's your independence. The good news about an outage is that your chair already runs on its own battery; the whole question is keeping that battery charged.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. Unlike a device that has to stay plugged in, your chair or scooter carries its power with it. That's a real advantage. The planning is mostly about good charging habits, a way to top it up in a long outage, and a simple backup for getting around if the battery ever runs low.

We'll keep this practical and reassuring. A few habits and one or two backups mean an outage never has to leave you stuck.

★ Let's keep you moving

I'm glad to help you set up charging and backups so your independence doesn't depend on the power staying on. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things, an outage won't leave you stranded.

- ❑ Your chair runs on its own battery — the outage question is charging it.
- ❑ Keep it charged as a steady habit; don't let it sit low.
- ❑ Charging a chair draws a lot, so plan carefully if you'll charge from a battery station.
- ❑ Conserve the charge in an outage — shorter trips, gentle speeds.
- ❑ Keep a manual backup — a manual wheelchair or walker — for getting around.
- ❑ If you recharge with a generator, it runs outdoors only.
- ❑ Ask your supplier about charging, battery care, and backups for your model.
- ❑ If health is ever at risk, call 911 — your chair is mobility, not medical care.

✓ One idea to hold onto

Your chair carries its own power, so an outage is really just a charging question — and a manual backup covers you if the charge runs low.

Your chair carries its own power

That's the key difference from most medical equipment — and it works in your favor.

A CPAP or a concentrator has to stay plugged in, but your power chair or scooter runs off a battery it carries with it. When the power goes out, a fully charged chair keeps rolling for a good while on its own — it doesn't stop the instant the lights do. So the real planning is about two things: keeping that battery well charged so you start an outage full, and having a way to top it up or get around if an outage runs long.

This guide focuses on the chair's own battery and charging. If you also rely on a stairlift, a hospital bed, or a lift chair that plugs into the wall, our guide on backup power for beds, chairs, and stairlifts covers those.

★ Your independence, protected

The aim is simple: an outage should never mean you can't move around your own home. A charged chair and a manual backup make sure of it.

Keep it charged, as a habit

A chair that's always well charged is a chair that's ready for any outage.

The single best thing you can do is keep your chair charged as a matter of routine, following your supplier's guidance on how and how often. A chair kept topped up starts every outage with plenty in the tank. Letting it run low and sit is both bad for the battery and risky if the power happens to go out while it's nearly empty. Ask your supplier how to charge it well and care for the battery over time.

- Charge it on the schedule your supplier recommends — don't guess.
- Try not to let it sit at a low charge for long.
- Keep the charger where it belongs, ready to use.
- Before a forecast storm, make sure it's fully charged.

✓ Full before the storm

When bad weather is coming, top the chair up completely. Starting an outage with a full battery is most of the battle.

Charging from a battery power station

You can recharge a chair from a battery station in a long outage — with some planning, because it's a big draw.

In a long outage, a battery power station can recharge your chair indoors, safely and without fumes. The thing to know is that charging a mobility chair uses a fair amount of power — more than topping up a phone — so it takes a meaningful bite out of a power station. That's not a problem; it just means you plan for it. Bring your chair's charger details to your supplier and to me, and we'll make sure your station is sized to handle it. Our sizing guide covers matching capacity to need.

✓ Why a battery is the indoor-safe choice

A battery power station makes no fumes and no carbon monoxide, so unlike a fuel generator it is safe to run indoors — right on the nightstand next to a CPAP, or beside a chair next to a concentrator. It is also quiet enough to sleep next to and gives clean, steady power that sensitive equipment is happy with. A battery power station recharges a chair safely indoors, with no fumes — but because a chair is a bigger draw than a phone or CPAP, size the station with that in mind, and don't count on charging the chair and running everything else at once.

Making the charge last in an outage

A few gentle habits stretch your chair's battery when you can't easily recharge.

If an outage runs long and recharging is limited, treat the chair's battery like a resource to spend wisely. Shorter, planned trips use less than constant back-and-forth. Gentle speeds and smooth surfaces are easier on the battery than top speed over thresholds and thick carpet. None of this means sitting still — it just means being a little thoughtful so the charge covers what matters.

- Plan your trips so you're not crossing the house needlessly.
- Ease off the top speed; gentle driving stretches the charge.
- Keep essential paths clear so you take the easiest route.
- Save enough charge to reach help or the door if you had to leave.

✓ Spend the charge on what matters

The goal isn't to stay parked — it's to make sure the battery lasts for the trips that count, like reaching the phone, the door, or a helper.

Keep a manual backup for getting around

The steadiest backup of all is one that needs no power at all.

Just as an oxygen user keeps backup tanks that need no electricity, a power-chair user is wise to keep a manual backup for getting around: a manual wheelchair, a walker, or a cane, depending on what's right for you. If the chair's battery ever runs low with no way to recharge, a manual option means you can still move safely. Ask your doctor or physical therapist what manual backup suits you — that's their call, not mine.

- Ask your doctor or therapist what manual backup fits your needs.
- Keep it somewhere handy, not buried in a closet.
- Make sure a helper knows where it is and how to help you use it.
- Some power chairs can be pushed manually in a pinch — ask your supplier how.

★ The manual backup is theirs to choose

Which manual aid is right for you is a decision for your doctor or physical therapist. I help make sure it's ready and reachable — never which one you should use.

If you recharge with a generator

For a very long outage, a generator can top up the station that charges your chair — with the one firm rule.

If your plan for a long outage includes a generator to recharge the battery station that in turn charges your chair, that's a fine, sturdy setup. Just remember where the generator runs — the rule that never bends, no matter the weather or how much you need the charge.

! A generator's exhaust is deadly — a battery is not

If your backup plan includes a gas- or propane-powered generator, remember that its exhaust contains carbon monoxide — an invisible, odorless gas that can kill in minutes. Never run any fuel-burning generator indoors, in a garage, in a shed, in a basement, or on a porch, not even with a door open and a fan going. Run it outside only, well away from the house — the safety agencies say at least 20 feet — with the exhaust pointed away from every window, door, and vent. This is one big reason a battery power station suits medical equipment so well: it makes no exhaust at all, so it is safe to use right beside the bed, indoors. Put battery-backup carbon-monoxide alarms on every floor and outside the bedrooms, and if an alarm sounds or anyone feels dizzy, sick, or sleepy, get everyone into fresh air first and ask questions later. A generator used to recharge your station — and your chair — runs outdoors only, at least 20 feet from the house, exhaust pointed away. Never in a garage, shed, or on a porch, even to charge something as important as your mobility. The battery station it charges is what runs safely indoors.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

Where you live shapes how much charging capacity and backup you'll want for your chair.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or a close-in suburb, outages are usually shorter, so a well-charged chair often rides out the whole thing on its own.

- A full charge going in may cover a typical shorter outage with room to spare.
- A place to recharge — a relative, a community building — is usually close.
- A manual backup is still wise, but you may need it less often.
- Getting to help, if needed, is usually a shorter trip.

If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country, outages run longer, so you'll want a real way to recharge the chair and a dependable manual backup for the stretches between.

- Plan a way to recharge — a well-sized battery station, topped by a generator or car.
- Keep a manual backup you're comfortable using for longer periods.
- Remember paths may be harder if you need to go outside — plan safe routes.
- Factor the chair's big charging draw into your overall power plan.

★ Let's plan charging and backup for your chair

Tell me your chair, your home, and how long outages last, and I'll help you set up charging and a manual backup that fit. Call (330) 200-8042.

Getting around safely when the power's out

An outage changes the house a little — so plan your movements with that in mind.

When the power's out, the house is darker and some things you rely on may be off. Keep flashlights or lights within reach so your paths are lit. If you use a stairlift or a lift, know how they behave in an outage — our beds-and-stairlifts guide covers those. And keep your most-used routes clear, so getting to the phone, the bathroom, or the door is easy even in low light.

- Keep lights or flashlights along your usual routes.
- Know how any stairlift or lift behaves when the power's out.
- Keep your main paths clear of clutter and cords.
- Have your phone reachable from wherever you spend the outage.

✓ Light the way in advance

Placing a few lights along your routes before storm season means an outage never leaves your path in the dark.

A word on stairlifts and lifts

If you also depend on a stairlift or patient lift, those are a different kind of backup question.

A stairlift, a patient lift, or a lift chair plugs into the wall and usually has its own small backup battery for a few trips in an outage. Those are worth understanding separately from your chair, because they're fixtures that need power delivered to them. Our guide on backup power for beds, chairs, and stairlifts covers them in detail — ask your supplier how long each one runs on its backup battery.

★ Two different questions, both worth answering

Your chair carries its own battery; a stairlift needs power brought to it. I can help you understand both, so no part of getting around catches you out. Call (330) 200-8042.

Your chair is mobility — 911 is for health

Keep the two clearly separate in your mind.

Your power chair keeps you moving, but it isn't medical care. If someone is having trouble breathing, has chest pain, seems confused, or has bluish lips or skin, call 911 — don't wait, and don't try to drive somewhere first. And if an outage leaves you truly stranded and unable to get the help or care you need, that's also a reason to call for help. A charged chair buys independence; it never replaces care.

! Mobility buys independence — not medical care

Keeping your chair charged is about freedom and safety at home. If health is ever at risk, call 911 or get to a hospital or shelter with power — that always comes first.

Test charging and runtime on a calm day

Knowing how your chair and its backups behave means no surprises in an outage.

On a calm day, try the things you'd rely on. If you'll recharge the chair from a battery station, do a practice charge and see how long it takes and how much it uses. Get out your manual backup and make sure you're comfortable with it. Check that your lit routes work. A little practice now turns an outage into something familiar. Our testing guide covers the whole plan.

★ Let's test it together

I'm glad to help you practice charging your chair from a station, try out your manual backup, and check your routes — all on a calm day. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

What I help with — and what I don't

Being clear about this line is part of doing right by you.

Bill helps with	Always the supplier or doctor's call
Setting up charging from a station	Battery care for your model
Sizing the station for the chair	Which manual backup suits you
Lighting your routes and testing	How to use your chair safely
Planning recharging for long outages	When to seek emergency care

★ **A boundary I keep**

I handle the power and charging side. How to use and care for your chair, and which manual aid is right, stay with your supplier, doctor, and therapist — and I'll point you to them.

A few gentle reminders

Not judgments — just the patterns I see most, so you can step around them.

- Letting the chair sit at a low charge, so it starts an outage nearly empty.
- Assuming a small battery station can easily charge a chair — it's a big draw.
- Having no manual backup for getting around if the charge runs low.
- Recharging with a generator in the garage — a deadly mistake.
- Never practicing, so the first real charge or manual trip is under stress.

! If one of these sounds familiar, that's all right

Spotting a gap is the whole point. Fix one this week — top up the chair, or ready a manual backup — and you're safer already.

A caring checklist

Work through it at your own pace — the only deadline is the one you set.

- ☐ I keep my chair charged on my supplier's recommended schedule.
- ☐ I top it up fully before a forecast storm.
- ☐ If I'll charge from a station, it's sized for the chair's big draw.
- ☐ I have a manual backup my doctor or therapist recommended, and it's handy.
- ☐ I know how to conserve the chair's charge in a long outage.
- ☐ I have lit, clear routes through my home.
- ☐ If I recharge with a generator, I know it runs outdoors only.
- ☐ I know the signs that mean call 911.

★ Even a few boxes checked is real progress

You don't have to do it all today. Every box protects your independence a little more when the power's out.

Questions worth asking the pros in your life

Some questions belong with your supplier, doctor, or therapist — here's how to ask them well.

Q: What should I ask my equipment supplier?

How to charge your chair well, how to care for its battery, whether it can be pushed manually in a pinch, and what its charger needs so I can size a station.

Q: What should I ask my doctor or therapist?

Which manual backup — wheelchair, walker, or cane — suits you, and how to use it safely if your chair's charge runs low.

Q: What should I ask about charging from a station?

Bring the charger details to me and your supplier, and we'll confirm a battery station sized for the chair's larger draw.

Q: What can Bill set up for me?

Charging from a station, sizing it for the chair, lighting your routes, and a practice run of charging and your manual backup.

✓ I'll help you prepare the questions

Not sure how to ask? Call me first and we'll write down what to ask your supplier and therapist, so nothing gets missed.

Common Questions

The questions folks ask me most about mobility devices, answered plainly.

Q: Does my power chair stop working the moment the power goes out?

No — it runs on its own battery, so a charged chair keeps going for a good while. The planning is about keeping it charged and having a way to top it up or a manual backup.

Q: Can I charge my chair from a battery power station?

Yes, safely indoors — but charging a chair is a big draw, more than a phone or CPAP. Size the station for it, and don't count on charging the chair and running everything else at once.

Q: How long will my chair run on a charge?

That depends on your model, how you drive, and the terrain — your supplier can tell you. I won't guess a number; test yours on a calm day to know for sure.

Q: Do I really need a manual backup?

It's wise — a manual wheelchair, walker, or cane means you can still get around if the charge ever runs low. Ask your doctor or therapist which is right for you.

★ However far along you are, I'm glad to help

Whether you're setting up charging or planning backups, call or text me at (330) 200-8042. We'll keep you rolling, one calm step at a time.

Bringing it all together

Your chair carries its own power, so the plan is charging, conserving, and a manual backup.

Keep the chair charged as a habit and full before a storm. In a long outage, recharge from a battery station — sized for the chair's big draw — topped by a generator or car if needed, always outdoors. Conserve the charge with planned trips and gentle driving, keep a manual backup your therapist recommends, and light your routes. That way, an outage never takes your independence.

This works alongside the sizing guide, the beds-and-stairlifts guide, and the recharging guide. Take them one at a time.

★ Let's keep you moving together

There's no need to sort this out alone. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, and we'll set up charging and backups so an outage never leaves you stuck.

Your next small step

Small, doable steps in a gentle order — no need to do them all at once.

- Today: make sure your chair is charged, and keep the charger handy.
- This week: ask your supplier how to charge and care for the battery.
- This week: ask your doctor or therapist about a manual backup.
- This month: if you'll charge from a station, bring me the charger details to size it.
- Before storm season: practice charging and using your manual backup.

✓ One step at a time is plenty

Even topping up the chair today is a real start. The rest follows at your pace.

A word on caring for the chair's battery

A well-cared-for battery is a dependable one — and that starts long before any outage.

The battery that carries you through an outage is the same one you use every day, so caring for it well matters year-round. In general, chairs do best when charged regularly rather than run flat and left, and when kept somewhere that isn't too hot or too cold — but the specifics depend on your chair, so follow your supplier's guidance for your model. A healthy battery holds more charge and lasts longer, which is exactly what you want when the power goes out.

★ Follow your supplier on the specifics

I can help you build a good charging routine, but how to care for your particular battery is your supplier's guidance to give. Ask them, and I'll help you keep to it.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made keeping your mobility device charged and ready feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other important home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

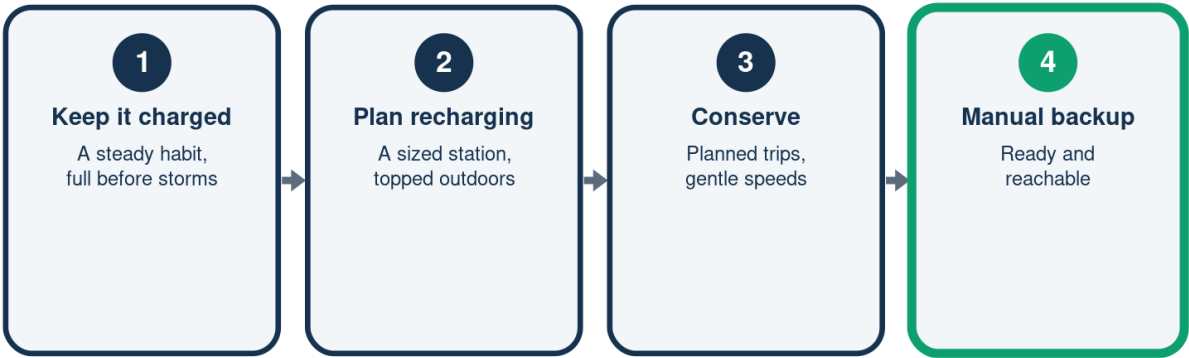
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. I'll help you choose and set up a battery power station, get the equipment your family depends on connected safely, and test the whole plan before you ever need it. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I help with the power side only — your settings, your prescription, and when to seek care always stay with your doctor and your equipment supplier — and for any licensed electrical work, I'll line you up with a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

Keeping Your Chair Ready, Step by Step

Independence that doesn't depend on the grid



Your chair carries its own power -- the plan is keeping it charged.

Your Mobility Backup Layers

More than one way to keep moving

Layer			What it does
Charged chair	Its own battery		Runs a good while
Battery station	Recharges it		Big draw -- size it
Generator / car	Tops the station		Outdoors only
Manual backup	No power needed		Always reliable

Your doctor or therapist chooses the right manual backup.

Two Different Questions

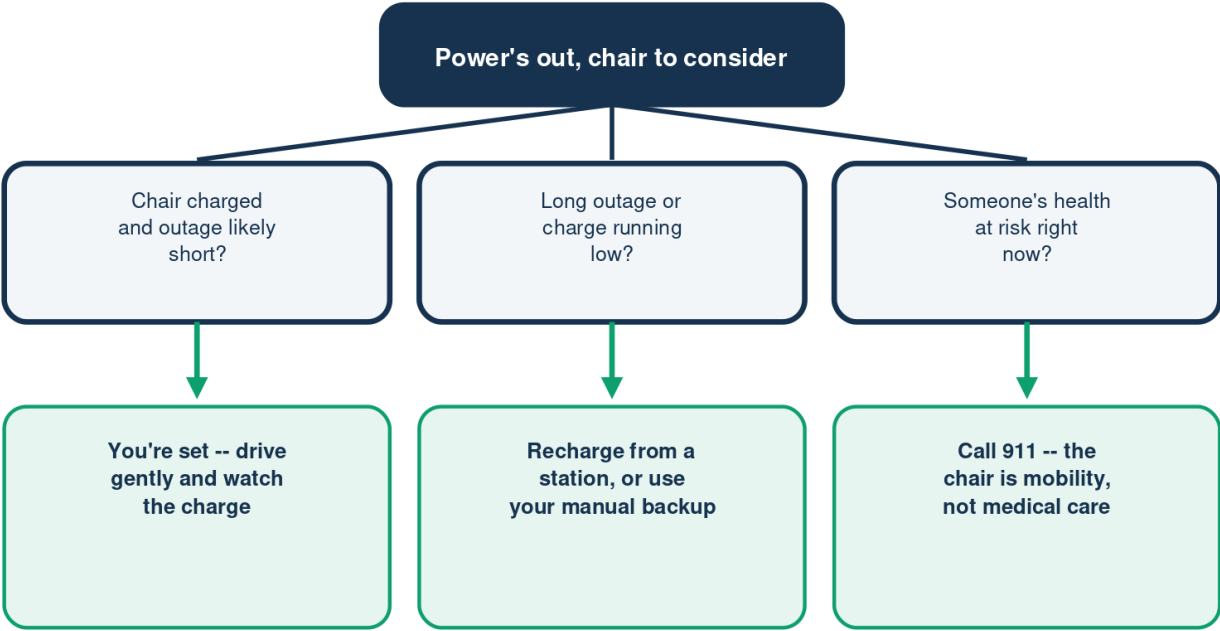
Your chair vs. a stairlift or bed

	Power chair	Stairlift / bed
Where power is	Carried on board	Plugged into wall
In an outage	Runs on its battery	On its own backup
The plan	Keep it charged	Know its backup
Covered in	This guide	Beds & stairlifts guide

Ask your supplier how long each one lasts on its backup battery.

Outage and the Chair -- What Now?

A calm gut-check for getting around



This guide isn't medical advice -- follow your supplier, doctor, and therapist.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



Need a Real Person?

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You just have to remember you can call.
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Prefer help without a visit?

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A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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