



An Extended Guide · No. 1838

Your Printable Master Outage Checklist

The whole plan, in one place

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — the real outage dangers are quiet ones

When the power goes out, most of the real danger doesn't come from the dark — it comes from how we try to get by without it. Every year people are harmed by carbon monoxide from a generator, grill, or camp stove brought indoors or into a garage, and by fires from candles and unvented heaters. So three rules run through this whole guide. First, never burn anything indoors that is meant for outdoors — no generator, grill, charcoal, or camp stove in the house, garage, or on a porch, not even with a window open. Second, reach for a flashlight or a battery lantern instead of a candle. Third, keep working smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms on every level, with battery backup, and never ignore one. If an alarm sounds, or anyone feels dizzy, sick, or sleepy, get everyone to fresh air first and call 911. This master checklist gathers the whole series in one place — including the safety rules that run through all of it, like never burning anything indoors.

Your whole outage plan, in one place

This guide is the hub of the entire series — a set of simple, printable checklists that pull together everything from building a kit to recovering after the storm. Keep it where you'll grab it.

I'm Bill, and while each of our other guides goes deep on one topic, this one is the map to all of them. It's meant to be printed and kept with your kit or on the fridge, so the whole plan is at your fingertips when you need it — no memorizing required.

Each page here is a card you can act on: the kit contents, the before-during-after steps, the key safety rules, and fill-in pages for your phone numbers and family plan. For the full story on any of them, turn to that topic's own guide.

★ Want the whole plan set up?

If you'd like help building out your full outage plan and printing this master checklist for your home, that's exactly what I do. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

The whole series, on one page

If you remember only these, you've got the heart of the whole plan.

- ☐ Build a kit: water, food, light, information, health, comfort.
- ☐ Store water: about a gallon per person per day, several days.
- ☐ Never burn anything indoors; keep generators outside, far away.
- ☐ Use flashlights, not candles; put CO alarms on every level.
- ☐ Keep the fridge closed; toss perishables warm over 4 hours.
- ☐ Keep phones charged; have a family communication plan.
- ☐ Plan for medical needs, seniors, and pets specifically.
- ☐ Prepare before, stay safe during, recover carefully after.

✓ This is the map; the guides are the territory

Use this checklist to see the whole plan at a glance, and turn to each topic's guide when you want the full detail.

The master kit checklist

Everything a good home outage kit holds — see our home-outage-kit guide for the full story.

- ❑ Water: about a gallon per person per day, for several days.
- ❑ Food: a few days of no-cook food, and a manual can opener.
- ❑ Light: flashlights, a lantern, a headlamp, and spare batteries.
- ❑ Power: charged power banks and spare charging cords.
- ❑ Information: a battery or hand-crank NOAA weather radio.
- ❑ Health: a first-aid kit and a few days of any medicines.
- ❑ Comfort: warm blankets, warm and cool-weather gear, sanitation.
- ❑ Papers and cash: copies of key documents and small bills.

✓ One labeled bin, everyone knows where

Keep it all in a labeled container the whole household can find in the dark, with a smaller grab-and-go bag alongside.

The before-the-storm card

When a storm's in the forecast — see our before-the-storm guide for more.

- ☐ Charge every phone, power bank, and device.
- ☐ Fill water containers and freeze several jugs.
- ☐ Turn the fridge and freezer cold; ready no-cook food.
- ☐ Fill the car's tank; check any generator fuel.
- ☐ Secure loose items outside; bring pets and animals in.
- ☐ Ready cash, documents, medicines, and go-bags.
- ☐ Place flashlights; check the kit; refresh the family plan.
- ☐ Know your water, gas, and electric shutoffs.

✓ Do it while you still have power

Every before-storm step is easier with the lights on. Work through this the moment a serious forecast lands.

The during-the-outage card

Once the power's out — see our during-the-outage guide for more.

- ☐ Grab a light; confirm a real outage; note the time; report it.
- ☐ Keep all burning outside; use flashlights, not candles.
- ☐ Keep the fridge and freezer closed.
- ☐ Conserve phone battery; lean on power banks.
- ☐ Use stored water wisely; the tub for flushing.
- ☐ Keep one room warm or cool; light the paths.
- ☐ Stay informed with the weather radio.
- ☐ Check on family, neighbors, and pets.

✓ Calm and steady

There's rarely a need to rush. Grab a light, take a breath, and work the card one line at a time.

The after-the-storm card

Once the power's back — see our after-the-storm guide for more.

- ☐ Bring power back gradually; reset clocks and electronics.
- ☐ Check the food; toss perishables warm over 4 hours; when in doubt, toss it.
- ☐ Follow any boil notice; check a flooded well before drinking.
- ☐ Shut down and store backup power and fuel safely.
- ☐ Document any damage for insurance; watch for scams.
- ☐ Restock the kit while it's fresh in mind.
- ☐ Check on everyone; note one thing to improve.
- ☐ Rest, and ease back into normal routines.

✓ Restock while it's fresh

Right after an outage, you know exactly what you ran short on. Refill and adjust now, and you'll be readier next time.

The carbon-monoxide and fire safety card

The rules that run through the whole series — see our carbon-monoxide guide for more.

- ❑ Never run a generator, grill, or camp stove indoors or in a garage.
- ❑ Keep a generator outside, 20+ feet away, exhaust pointed away.
- ❑ Never heat with an oven, or any unvented burning indoors.
- ❑ Use flashlights and lanterns, never candles, for light.
- ❑ Put battery-backup CO alarms on every level and outside bedrooms.
- ❑ Never idle a car in a closed or attached garage.
- ❑ If an alarm sounds or people feel sick, get to fresh air, call 911.
- ❑ Treat every downed power line as live and deadly.

! These rules never relax

However long or cold or dark the outage, the safety rules hold. An open door or a fan does not make indoor burning safe.

The food-safety card

The timings the experts use — see our food-and-cooking guide for more.

Where	How long / what to do
Fridge, closed	Safe about 4 hours
Full freezer, closed	About 48 hours
Half freezer, closed	About 24 hours
The safety line	Toss perishables above 40F over 4 hours
The golden rule	When in doubt, throw it out — never taste

✓ **Thermometers settle every question**

An appliance thermometer in the fridge and freezer turns guessing into a simple reading of what's safe.

The water card

Store it, keep it safe — see our water guide for more.

- ❑ Store about a gallon per person per day, several days' worth.
- ❑ Add extra for pets, cooking, and anyone ill.
- ❑ On a well, store much more — the pump stops with the power.
- ❑ Fill jugs, pots, and the bathtub before a storm.
- ❑ Keep stored water cool, dark, and dated; rotate it.
- ❑ To make water safe, boiling is the surest method.
- ❑ After flooding or a boil notice, don't drink from the tap.

✓ A bucket flushes a toilet

Pour about a gallon briskly into the bowl and it flushes on its own — what the filled bathtub is for.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

The whole plan applies to every home, but a quick side-by-side shows how much more rides on it out in the country.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town, outages tend to be shorter and help is close, so the plan is mostly about comfort and safe food.

- A few days of supplies covers most outages.
- Restocking and help are close once power returns.
- City water usually keeps flowing unless a notice says otherwise.
- Follow the same safety rules — they never relax.

If you are out in the country on a well

In the country, outages run longer and the well pump stops, so every part of the plan carries more weight.

- Store much more water — no power means no well water.
- Keep a deeper food, fuel, and battery reserve for a long haul.
- Plan backup power and check on isolated neighbors.
- After flooding, have the well checked before trusting the tap.

★ Let's build your whole plan

Town or country, I'll help you put the entire plan together, sized to your home. Call (330) 200-8042.

The lighting and power card

Light to see by, power to stay reachable — see our lighting and device-charging guides.

- ❑ A flashlight on every nightstand and by every exit.
- ❑ A lantern for the main room; a headlamp for tasks and stairs.
- ❑ Automatic nightlights for halls and the bathroom.
- ❑ Plenty of the right batteries, and candles only as a last resort.
- ❑ Power banks kept charged; spare charging cords in the kit.
- ❑ Phones in low-power mode; text more than call.
- ❑ Charge from the car only outdoors.

✓ Flashlights, not candles

Battery light gives the glow with none of the fire risk. Keep candles as a distant backup only.

The warmth and cooling card

Stay comfortable, safely — see our heating and staying-cool guides.

- ❑ Winter: close off and heat one room; layer up; safe heat only.
- ❑ Winter: never an oven, grill, or unvented burning indoors.
- ❑ Winter: let faucets drip; know your main water shutoff.
- ❑ Summer: find the coolest spot; close blinds by day, open at night.
- ❑ Summer: drink water steadily; cool the body with damp cloths.
- ❑ Watch the vulnerable closely in both heat and cold.
- ❑ Know the signs of hypothermia and heat illness, and act.

! One warm or cool room

Rather than fighting the whole house, make one room comfortable and gather there — warm in winter, cool in summer.

The medical and medicines card

Health needs come first — see our first-aid, medical-device, and senior guides.

- ❑ Keep a few days' supply of any regular medicines.
- ❑ Keep a written medicine list on you and in the kit.
- ❑ Plan a cooler for medicines that need refrigeration.
- ❑ Give powered medical equipment a layered backup-power plan.
- ❑ Register on the utility's medical or priority list.
- ❑ Keep a stocked first-aid kit in a known spot.
- ❑ Know when to call 911 — and do it without waiting.

! A battery buys time, not a whole outage

Never rely on one backup battery for life-sustaining equipment. Layer your backups and know where you'd go for power. If health is at risk, call 911.

The pets card

Family has four legs, too — see our pets guide for more.

- ❑ A few days of pet food and a manual can opener.
- ❑ Extra water and bowls for each animal.
- ❑ Pet medicines, the vet's number, and medical records.
- ❑ A leash, carrier, and current ID for each pet.
- ❑ A recent photo, in case a pet gets lost.
- ❑ Keep pets warm or cool with the family, and calm.
- ❑ Know a pet-friendly place to go if you must leave.

✓ Whatever you do, do for your pets

Off the cold floor in winter, in the coolest spot with water in summer — and never left in a hot or cold car.

The family communication card

Fill this in with your household — see our communication guide for more.

- ☐ Out-of-town contact: _____
- ☐ Meeting place near home: _____
- ☐ Meeting place outside the neighborhood: _____
- ☐ Agree to text first, on a check-in schedule.
- ☐ Everyone carries a contact card.
- ☐ A plan for the kids and their school.
- ☐ Who checks on which relatives and neighbors.

✓ One out-of-town contact ties it together

A single relative far from the storm, whom everyone checks in with, becomes the hub that connects a scattered family.

The documents and cash card

Copied, secured, and ready — see our documents-and-cash guide for more.

- ❑ Copies of ID, insurance, medical, financial, and property papers.
- ❑ A waterproof folder in the kit; a fireproof box for originals.
- ❑ Sensitive items kept secure and private.
- ❑ Some cash in small bills, kept safely.
- ❑ A grab-and-go pouch with key copies and cash.
- ❑ A secure, password-protected digital backup.
- ❑ A home inventory for insurance claims.

✓ Keep it secure and private

These papers are sensitive. Lock up the most personal items and password-protect any digital copies.

The evacuation card

If you ever have to leave fast — see our evacuation-bag guide for more.

- ❑ A grab-and-go bag for each person, kept light, by the door.
- ❑ Water, snacks, medicines, and a first-aid kit inside.
- ❑ The document-and-cash pouch and a charger inside.
- ❑ A change of clothes, weather gear, and comfort items.
- ❑ A go-bag for the pets, too.
- ❑ Know at least two ways out of the house.
- ❑ Know where you'd go and a backup route.

! Follow official evacuation orders

If officials tell you to leave, leave. A ready go-bag lets you act right away — and leave early, not late.

Your important phone numbers

Fill these in and keep this page in your kit and your wallet.

Who	Number
Electric utility (outages)	_____
Water provider	_____
Doctor / pharmacy	_____
Insurance agent	_____
Out-of-town family contact	_____
Veterinarian	_____
Bill's Home Tech	(330) 200-8042

✓ **Paper doesn't need a battery**

A printed number list works when your phone is dead and the internet's down. Fill it in and keep a copy in the kit and your wallet.

How to use this master checklist

A few tips to get the most from it.

Print this guide, or the pages you use most, and keep it with your kit and a copy on the fridge. When a storm's coming, work the before card; when the power's out, the during card; when it's back, the after card. For the full story on any topic, turn to that guide — this is the map to the whole series.

Review it with your household so everyone knows the plan, and give it a refresh twice a year when you check your kit. A plan everyone knows and can find is a plan that actually works.

✓ **Print it and keep it visible**

A checklist in a drawer you forget about helps no one. Keep this where you'll see it — with the kit, or on the fridge.

The one-page master, to tape up

The whole plan boiled down to what you'd tape near your kit.

- ❑ KIT: water, food, light, radio, first-aid, comfort, papers, cash.
- ❑ WATER: a gallon per person per day; on a well, store much more.
- ❑ SAFETY: nothing burning indoors; flashlights not candles; CO alarms.
- ❑ FOOD: keep it closed; fridge ~4 hrs; toss if warm too long.
- ❑ POWER: charge ahead; power banks; car charging outdoors only.
- ❑ PEOPLE: family plan, check on the vulnerable, plan for pets.
- ❑ BEFORE, DURING, AFTER: prep, stay safe, recover carefully.
- ❑ HELP: Bill's Home Tech, (330) 200-8042.

★ Want this set up for your home?

I'll help you build the full plan and print this master checklist to keep. A first visit is a flat \$99. Call (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about pulling the whole plan together.

Q: How do I use this master checklist?

Print it and keep it with your kit and on the fridge. Work the before card when a storm's coming, the during card when the power's out, and the after card once it's back. Turn to each topic's guide for the full detail.

Q: Where should I keep it?

Somewhere visible and easy to reach — with your kit, on the fridge, or both. A checklist you forget about in a drawer can't help; one you see keeps the plan fresh in everyone's mind.

Q: What if I haven't done all the prep yet?

That's fine — start anywhere. Use the kit card and before card first, then fill in the rest over time. A partial plan is far better than none, and this checklist shows you what to add next.

Q: How often should I review it?

Give it a look twice a year — an easy reminder is when the clocks change — alongside your kit check. Update the fill-in numbers and family plan whenever anything changes.

Q: Which guide should I read first?

Start with the home-outage-kit guide to build your kit, then the before, during, and after guides for the timeline. From there, read whichever topic — water, heat, medical, pets — matters most for your home.

★ Let's put it all together

This master checklist is the whole plan in one place. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and I'll help you build it out and print it for your home.

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 putting your whole outage plan together feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

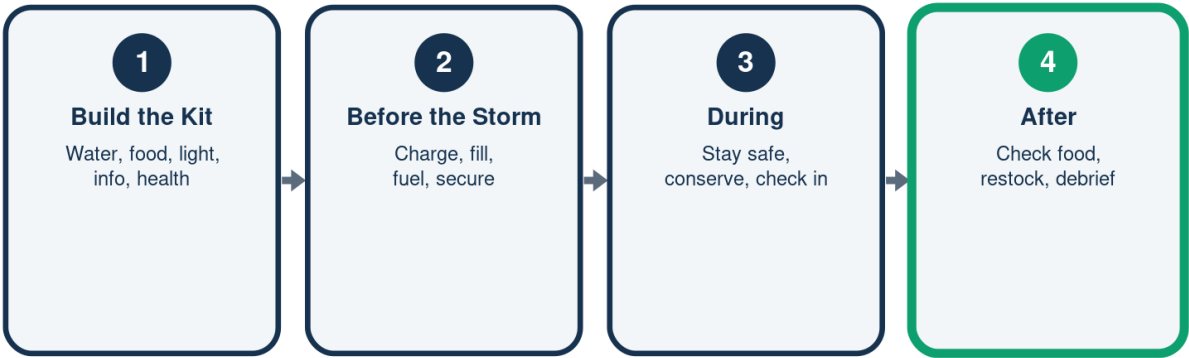
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do the licensed electrical or gas work myself — for that I'll help you line up 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

Your Whole Plan at a Glance

The series, from kit to recovery



This is the map; each topic has its own deeper guide.

The Master Kit Checklist

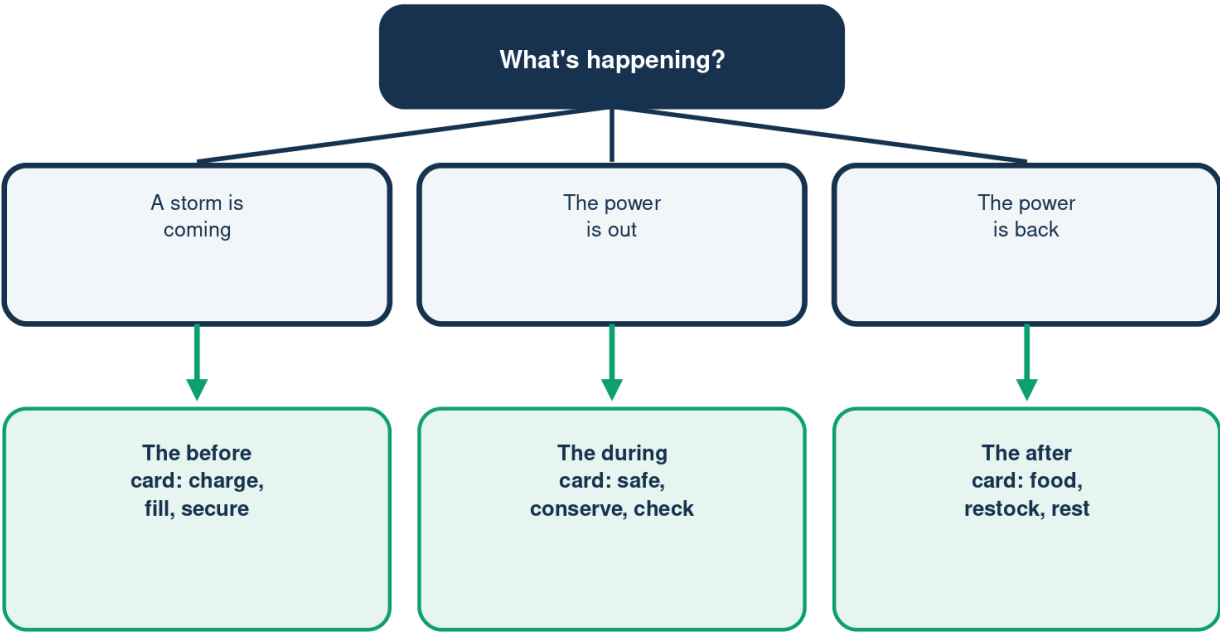
Everything a good kit holds

The short version	
Water	A gallon per person, per day
Food	A few days, no cooking
Light & power	Flashlights, banks, batteries
Information	A NOAA weather radio
Health & papers	First-aid, meds, copies, cash

One labeled bin the whole household can find.

Which Card Do I Need Right Now?

Jump to the right part of the plan



For the full story on any topic, turn to that topic's guide.

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

Keep These Numbers Handy

Fill them in and keep a paper copy

Who to have	
Utilities	Electric outages, water
Health	Doctor, pharmacy, vet
Insurance	Your agent or company
Family	The out-of-town contact

Paper works when the phone is dead and the internet is down.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will
make it right -- or refund it. No awkwardness,
no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

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— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



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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