



An Extended Guide · No. 1829

An Outage Plan for Medical-Device Users

Layered backup, planned in calm

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 for the equipment someone depends 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 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. This guide is the power side of that plan — how to keep a device running — built to sit alongside the guidance from your doctor and supplier, never to replace it.

Let's plan power for what matters most

When someone in the home depends on powered medical equipment, an outage is more than an inconvenience. A good plan — built in layers, ahead of time — turns it into something you're ready for.

I'm Bill, and I want to be clear from the start: I'm a tech helper, not a medical professional. What I do is help with the power side — battery backups, a safe generator or battery hookup, testing the plan — while your doctor and equipment supplier guide the medical decisions.

We'll cover knowing your device's needs, keeping approved batteries ready, registering with your utility, clean power for sensitive gear, and having a plan to relocate to power if you need to. The tone here is calm and caring, because that's how good planning feels.

★ I help with the power, not the medicine

I'm glad to set up and test backup power and a safe hookup. For anything about the device or health, your doctor and supplier lead. Call me for the power side at (330) 200-8042.

A medical-device plan, on one page

The essentials, if you remember nothing else.

- ❑ Build the plan in layers — no single battery is the whole answer.
- ❑ Know how long each device runs on its battery, and what it needs.
- ❑ Keep approved battery backups charged, with spares.
- ❑ Register on your utility's medical or priority-restoration list.
- ❑ Tell your equipment supplier your outage plan.
- ❑ For sensitive devices, plan clean power — a battery or inverter.
- ❑ Have a plan to relocate to power: hospital, family, or shelter.
- ❑ If health is ever at risk, call 911 — don't wait it out.

! A battery buys time, not a whole outage

Never count on one backup battery to carry life-sustaining equipment through a long outage. Layers, and a plan to reach power, are what keep someone safe.

Think in layers, not one solution

The safest plans don't rely on any single thing — they stack backups.

Picture layers: the device's own battery, then approved spare batteries, then a larger battery station or a generator, then a plan to relocate somewhere with power. Each layer covers the gap if the one before it runs out. No single layer has to carry the whole outage, and that's exactly the point.

Our medical-device-backup guides go deep on each layer. Here, hold onto the shape of it: several backups, arranged so you're never down to your last option with no plan.

✓ Stack your backups

Each backup buys time to reach the next. Layered this way, a long outage becomes a series of manageable steps instead of one frightening cliff.

Know exactly what your device needs

Every device is different, so start by learning yours inside and out.

Ask your equipment supplier: how long does it run on its internal battery, does it have an approved external battery or car adapter, how much power does it draw, and does it need especially clean, steady power? Write the answers down. Knowing these facts is what lets you build the right backup, rather than guessing.

★ Let's gather your device's facts

I'm glad to help you list out your device's power needs and options from the manual and your supplier, so we can plan the right backup. Call (330) 200-8042.

Battery backups, kept ready

Approved batteries are usually the first and simplest backup layer.

- Use only battery backups approved for your specific device.
- Keep them fully charged, and keep charged spares.
- Know how long each one will actually run the device.
- Keep a car adapter if the device offers one — the car is a big battery.
- Recharge them on a schedule so they're never sitting low.

Manufacturer-approved batteries and adapters matter — the wrong power source can damage a device or fail when you need it. Your supplier can tell you what's approved and how much run time to expect from each.

✓ Keep spares charged and labeled

A shelf of dead backup batteries helps no one. Keep them charged, labeled with their run time, and refresh them on the same schedule as the rest of your kit.

Register with your utility ahead of time

Two calls on a calm day can move you up the priority list and loop in your supplier.

Most electric utilities keep a medical or priority-restoration list for customers who depend on powered equipment. Registering ahead of time can mean priority attention during an outage — though it's never a guarantee, so your other layers still matter. Also tell your equipment supplier your outage plan; they often have resources and advice.

★ I can help you register

If calling the utility and filling out a medical-list form feels like a chore, that's just the kind of thing I can help you do. Call (330) 200-8042.

A word on oxygen

If someone uses oxygen, this deserves careful, specific planning with your supplier.

Oxygen concentrators run on electricity, so an outage stops them. Ask your supplier about keeping backup oxygen tanks that need no power at all, and about approved batteries or a portable concentrator. Know how long your backup lasts and how to get more. And remember oxygen and flames don't mix — keep it well away from any open flame, and never near a candle, grill, or heater.

! Keep oxygen far from any flame

Oxygen makes fire burn hotter and faster. Keep it well away from candles, stoves, heaters, and any open flame — another reason to use battery light, not candles, in an outage.

CPAP, nebulizers, and other equipment

Many home devices have good backup options — ask about yours.

A CPAP or BiPAP machine often has an approved battery or car adapter, and some can run in a simpler mode to save power — ask your supplier. Nebulizers may offer battery-powered or hand-held versions. For each device someone relies on, learn its backup options before an outage, not during one.

✓ Ask about a low-power mode

Some devices can run in a mode that uses less power in a pinch — for instance, a CPAP without its humidifier. Your supplier can tell you what's safe for your device.

Medicines that need to stay cold

Some medicines need refrigeration, so they belong in the plan too.

If anyone keeps refrigerated medicine, such as certain insulins, have a cooler and ice packs ready and a spot to get more ice. Ask your pharmacist how your specific medicine should be stored and how long it can safely go without cold — that varies by medicine, so get it from them. Our first-aid-and-medication guide covers this alongside the rest of your medicine plan.

! Ask your pharmacist about cold medicines

How long a refrigerated medicine stays good without power depends on the medicine. Ask your pharmacist ahead of time and follow their guidance — never guess with something this important.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

A device plan works the same everywhere, but longer rural outages raise the stakes — and the number of backup layers you'll want.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town, outages are usually shorter and a hospital is close, so a couple of solid backup layers plus a relocation plan often suffice.

- Shorter outages are easier for batteries to bridge.
- A hospital or a relative with power is usually close by.
- The utility may restore town circuits sooner.
- Still register on the medical list and keep spares charged.

If you are out in the country on a well

In the country, outages run longer and the hospital is farther — so plan more layers and an earlier decision to relocate.

- Add more backup layers — longer outages need more run time.
- Plan the relocation trigger and destination carefully; it's a longer drive.
- Remember the well pump is down too — keep stored water on hand.
- Consider a larger battery station or generator for the extra hours.

★ Let's build the right layers for you

Whether help is close or far, I'll help you set up backup power and a relocation plan sized to your outages. Call (330) 200-8042.

Backup power: battery station or generator

For longer coverage, a battery station or a generator becomes a layer — each with its strengths.

A portable battery power station is quiet, makes no exhaust, and is safe to use right beside a bed indoors — ideal for sensitive medical gear. A generator runs longer on fuel but must stay outdoors, well away from the house, because of carbon monoxide. Many homes pair them: a battery for clean, indoor, instant power, and a generator to recharge it and run bigger loads. Our power-options and generator guides go deep on both.

! A generator never comes indoors

Even for medical equipment, a fuel generator stays outside, far from the house, with exhaust pointed away. For power right beside the bed, a battery station is the safe, exhaust-free choice.

A plan to relocate to power

The most important backup of all may be knowing where to go.

Decide ahead of time where you'd go if backups run low: a hospital, a relative's home with power, or a shelter. Know how you'd get there and who to call, and set a clear trigger — for instance, when the last battery reaches a certain level. Relocating early, before it's urgent, is far safer than waiting until options run out.

★ Let's plan the trigger and the destination

Deciding in advance when to leave and where to go takes the panic out of the moment. I'm glad to help you map it out. Call (330) 200-8042.

An information sheet for the device

One sheet keeps the essentials at anyone's fingertips.

- The device, its settings, and its power needs.
- Which batteries and adapters are approved, and their run times.
- The supplier's name and number.
- The doctor's name and number.
- The relocation plan and its trigger.

Keep a copy with the device, one in your kit, and one with a family member. If you ever can't manage the device yourself, this sheet lets someone step in and keep it running.

✓ Keep it with the device

Tape the info sheet right to the device or its case. Then whoever's helping has the power plan and the phone numbers right where they need them.

A charging and testing routine

Backups only help if they're charged and known to work.

Keep every backup battery charged, and actually test the plan now and then — run the device on its backup battery for a bit so you know it works and how long it lasts. Fold this into your twice-a-year kit check, and top up batteries whenever a storm is forecast. A tested plan is a plan you can trust.

✓ Test it before you need it

Running the device on backup power once, calmly, tells you it works and how much time it buys. That knowledge is worth a lot in a real outage.

Knowing when to call 911

No plan replaces emergency help when health is truly at risk.

If equipment fails and backups are running out, or if someone shows signs of trouble — difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or bluish lips — call 911 right away. An outage is never a reason to wait and hope. Emergency responders can help, and a hospital has the power and care that a home backup can't match in a crisis.

! When health is at risk, call 911

Don't try to ride out a medical emergency on a fading backup. If someone's health is in danger, call 911 and get to care. That is always the right call.

Powered wheelchairs and mobility aids

Mobility equipment needs its own place in the plan.

A powered wheelchair, scooter, or lift depends on charge, so keep it charged and know how long it lasts. Have a manual backup if possible, and think through how the person would get around, and out of the house if needed, during a long outage. Include the mobility device's charging in your before-a-storm routine.

✓ Charge mobility gear before the storm

A powered chair or scooter at full charge before an outage gives the most freedom of movement. Make topping it up part of your storm prep.

Build the plan with your care team

The best device plan is made together with the people who know the health picture.

Your doctor and equipment supplier are partners in this. Ask them how much backup you truly need, what's safe for your device, and what resources they offer. Share your plan with them and with family, so everyone knows the layers and the triggers. My job is the practical power side; theirs is the medical guidance — together it's a complete plan.

★ I'm one part of your team

Think of me as the local hands for the power side, working alongside your doctor and supplier. I'll set up and test the backups and hookup. Call (330) 200-8042.

A strong plan without overspending

Some of the most important layers cost little or nothing.

Registering on the utility's medical list is free. Writing the info sheet and the relocation plan is free. Keeping approved batteries charged is nearly free. Larger backups like a battery station cost more, but the free planning steps do a great deal of the safety work on their own.

✓ Do the free layers first

Register with the utility, write the info sheet, and set your relocation trigger today — all free, and all central to the plan.

Your before-a-storm device steps

When a storm's coming, get every layer ready.

- ❑ Fully charge the device and every backup battery.
- ❑ Charge any mobility equipment and power banks.
- ❑ Confirm ice packs and a cooler for refrigerated medicines.
- ❑ Review the info sheet and the relocation trigger.
- ❑ Make sure the utility knows you're on the medical list.
- ❑ Tell your check-in people and supplier a storm is coming.

✓ Top off every battery

Before a storm, charge everything that holds a charge — the device, its backups, mobility gear, and power banks. Full batteries are your cushion.

Your printable medical-device checklist

The whole layered plan, in one place to keep.

- ☐ You know each device's run time and power needs.
- ☐ Approved battery backups, charged, with spares.
- ☐ Registered on the utility's medical or priority list.
- ☐ Your equipment supplier knows your outage plan.
- ☐ A backup-power option for longer outages, if needed.
- ☐ Clean power planned for sensitive devices.
- ☐ A relocation plan with a clear trigger and destination.
- ☐ The knowledge to call 911 the moment health is at risk.

★ Want help building the layers?

I'll help set up and test backup power, a safe hookup, and the plan — the practical side, alongside your care team. A first visit is a flat \$99. Call (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about powering medical equipment.

Q: Can I just rely on a backup battery for medical equipment?

No — a single battery buys time, it doesn't replace care. Build the plan in layers: the device battery, approved spares, a larger battery or generator, and a plan to relocate to power. And call 911 if health is ever at risk.

Q: Should I register with my electric utility?

Yes — most utilities keep a medical or priority-restoration list for customers who depend on powered equipment. Registering ahead of time can mean priority attention, though it's never a guarantee, so keep your other layers ready too.

Q: Can I run medical equipment on a generator?

A generator can help, but it must stay outdoors, far from the house, because of carbon monoxide — and sensitive devices prefer clean power. Many people pair a quiet, exhaust-free battery station for indoor use with a generator to recharge it. See our power-options guide.

Q: How do I keep refrigerated medicine cold?

Have a cooler and ice packs ready and a spot to get more ice. Ask your pharmacist how your specific medicine should be stored and how long it can safely go without refrigeration — that depends on the medicine, so get it from them.

Q: When should I call 911 or go to the hospital?

If equipment fails and backups are running low, or if someone has trouble breathing, chest pain, confusion, or bluish lips, call 911 right away. Never try to ride out a medical emergency on a fading backup.

★ Let's make this feel manageable

A layered plan turns a scary what-if into something you're ready for. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and I'll help with the power side, alongside your doctor and supplier.

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 powering medical equipment in an outage 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

A Medical-Device Power Plan

Four steps to a calm, layered plan



Built with your doctor and supplier — not a substitute for them.

Your Layers of Backup

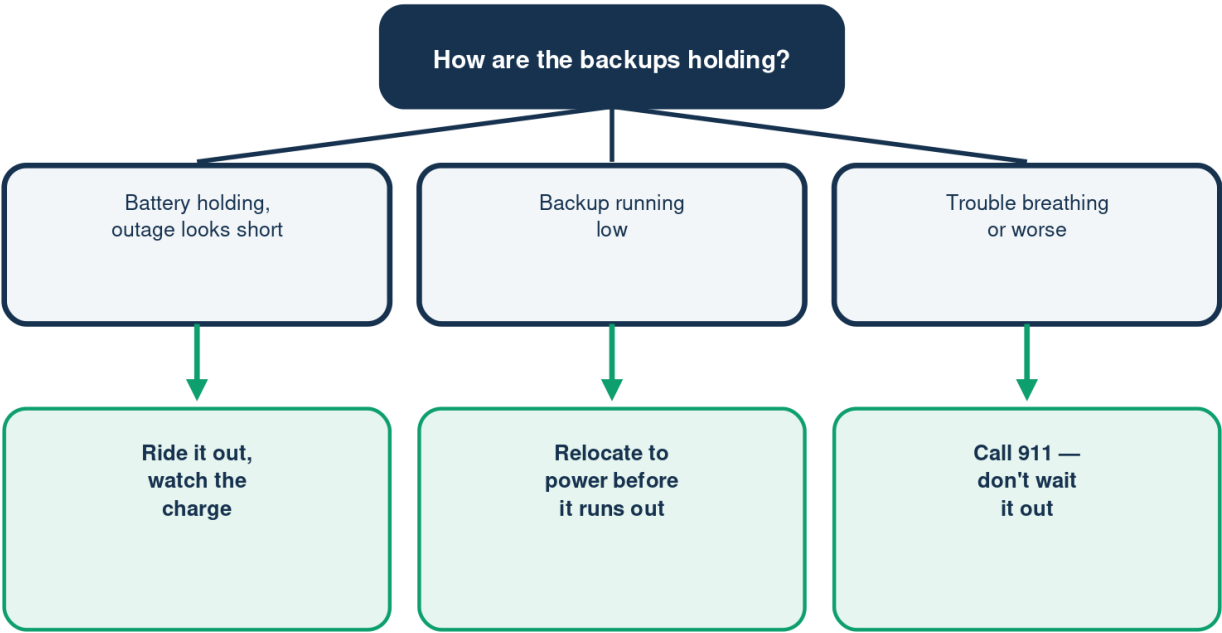
Each buys time to reach the next

What it covers	
Device battery	The first hours
Approved spares	More run time
Battery or generator	Longer outages
A place with power	The long haul

No single layer has to carry the whole outage.

Power's Out and Someone Depends on a Device

Know your next move at each stage



A battery buys time; a hospital has power and care — go early.

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

Power for Sensitive Devices

Clean, safe power beside the bed

	Best for	Watch out
Battery station	Indoor-safe, clean	Recharge it
Inverter generator	Cleaner power	Outdoors only
Plain generator	Runs big loads	Rougher power, outside

A battery makes no exhaust, so it's safe right by the bed.



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.

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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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