WHAT DO I DO ABOUT REFRIGERATED MEDICINE AND POWERED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN A POWER OUTAGE?

Ready.gov says to talk to your medical provider ahead of time about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and for refrigerated medicines, and to find out how long each medicine can be stored at higher temperatures. The FDA says to have a cooler and ice or frozen gel packs available, and to tell your electric company and fire department that you have a medical device that needs power.

THE STEPS

01 Ask your medical provider now for an outage plan for devices and refrigerated medicines (Ready.gov).

02 Keep a cooler and ice or frozen gel packs, and follow the label (FDA).

03 Not kept cold? Check the storage instructions or call a pharmacist (FDA).

04 Tell your electric company and fire department about a device that needs power (FDA).

05 Ask the device maker about batteries or a generator (FDA).

06 Keep spare batteries charged (Ready.gov).

07 Generators run outdoors only (FDA).

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ The question for your provider, asked before an outage
- ☐ A cooler and gel packs
- ☐ The device maker's phone number and the model number
- ☐ A call to the electric company about priority restoration
- ☐ Charged spare batteries
- ☐ The FDA power outage booklet, printed and filled in

How we write it into your plan. A portable power station is a battery. Whether it can run a particular device, and for how long, is a question for the device maker. We write the maker's answer into your plan beside the Power Kit.

Sources: Ready.gov, Power Outages; Ready.gov, People with Disabilities; FDA, Safe Drug Use After a Natural Disaster; FDA, FDA Offers Tips about Medical Devices and Natural Disasters; FDA, Home Use Devices: How to Prepare for and Handle Power Outages for Medical Devices that Require Electricity (PDF). Last reviewed November 18, 2026. General preparedness information, not medical advice. In an emergency, call 911.