



# Power Outage Resource Checklist

February 2016

McDonough County Health Department



**MCHD Business hours:**

Monday—Thursday  
7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

309-837-9951 ext. 213  
309-837-1100 FAX  
[www.mchdept.com](http://www.mchdept.com)

**EMERGENCY Contacts:**

After hours MCHD	(309) 333-8061
Ameren IL	(800) 755-5000
McDonough Power COOP	(309) 837-1400
City of Macomb water service	(309) 836-3916
West Prairie Water Coop	(309) 772-3057
Refrigeration Co:	( )
Generator rental:	( )
Disaster Cleanup Co:	( )
Dry/block ice supplier:	( )
Fire Dept:	911

**REMEMBER: When in doubt, throw it out!**

- Temporarily close your business.
- Contact the McDonough County Health Department for assistance and inspection.
- Have a digital thermometer readily available to accurately and quickly check temperatures.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. A refrigerator left closed will keep food cold for about 4 hours.
- Cover any open air merchandizing cold-hold equipment to keep the cold air inside. For extended power outages, relocate potentially hazardous foods to walk-in units.
- A full freezer left closed will maintain food frozen for about 48 hours. A half-full freezer for about 24 hours.
- Consider using a refrigerated truck or a cooler with ice if the outage lasts longer than 24 hours.
- Purchase or rent a generator. *Never use generators indoors!*
- Serve a limited menu while your services are interrupted.
- Use disposable dishware during the power outage.
- Discard all food that had a temperature above 41°F for more than 4 hours, or if the length of time above 41°F is unknown. Use any food with a temperature above 41°F for less than 4 hours as soon as possible.
- Foods intended to be sold in a frozen state, but still at internal temperatures of less than 41°F and greater than 0°F may be immediately sold as a thawed, salvaged food item. Ice cream, frozen novelties, and other frozen items which lose product characteristics once thawed should be destroyed.
- If using dry ice to keep food cold, wear gloves and make sure it doesn't come in direct contact with the food; 25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days.
- Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies, Division Chief (217- 785-2439) or duty officer, if after hours (800-782-7860) regarding drugs or medical devices noted at temperatures above the manufacturer's recommendations.*
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report downed lines to the power provider in your area.
- Contact the McDonough County Health Department for re-inspection and approval to re-open.