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| Power outages after a flood |
| Information on power failures after a flood |
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It may take some time to get the power back on after a flood. Use the below tips on things you can do if there is a power outage.

# **Tips on keeping your food safe**

* Power failures can impact your food, remember to:
* move food from the fridge to the freezer
* keep your food as cold as possible by placing bagged ice or an insulating blanket over food packages
* if your food is still cold to touch (less than 5 °C), it is safe to use
* if your food is no longer cold to touch, it can be kept and eaten for up to four hours and then it must be thrown away or cooked and eaten
* eat hot food within four hours of it being hot, or throw it away
* if the power comes back on when the frozen food is still solid, then the food is safe to refreeze.

# **Tips on using a power generator**

* Generators are commonly used when the power is out. Use these tips before you use one:
* make sure that petrol or diesel generators are used in well-ventilated, outdoor areas as they can otherwise cause carbon monoxide poisoning which can make you very ill
* portable or generators for outside use are not used inside your house as they can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or fire
* install permanent generators as they are best suited for providing back-up power
* keep your generator in a dry place. You should store petrol outside in a protected area
* dry your hands before touching the generator
* check that the wiring or other electrical installations are not damaged before you switch them on
* switch off and cool the generator before refuelling. Petrol spilled on hot engine parts can cause fire
* plug in appliances into the generator using a heavy-duty extension cord
* do not try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

# **Get help**

* For information about safely using gas or electricity contact Energy Safe Victoria on 9203 9700 or visit: [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au)
* To report a gas leak call 132 771.

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