In Case of An Blackout... Make Sure You Are Prepared

Preparing an Emergency Go Kit ahead of time can save precious time in the event you must evacuate or go without electricity, heat, or water for an extended period of time.

1) Assess the situation
   - Check to see if neighbors have power
   - Stay away from fallen power lines & trees

2) Take precautionary steps
   - Turn off all appliances to prevent an overload when the power returns causing a second outage, including large appliances
   - Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed (Without power, a closed refrigerator can keep food cold for a day or two.)
   - Have a communication plan set (Follow a plan to check on neighbors and having certain neighbors check on you.)

3) During the outage
   - Eat foods that spoil quickly first
   - Do not refreeze seafood, poultry, ice cream, etc.
   - During the winter, have everyone stay in one room that is well lit during the day and wear layers of clothing
   - Use battery-operated flashlights & radios
   - Avoid using candles and kerosene lanterns because of fire risks

Canned Food
At least a three day supply

Tools:
Batteries, radio, and flashlights, non-electric can opener, shut off wrench, paper plates/cups, matches, whistle, paper & pen

For Pets:
Dried pet food, one gallon of water for each day, plastic food dishes, blankets, towels, trash bags, ID, photo, carrier, medications, vaccination records & registrations, leash, toy

Money or Traveler's Checks

For Babies:
Formula, diapers, bottles & nipples, powered milk, baby medications, blankets

First Aid Kit:
Bandages, sunscreen, gauze pads, scissors, tweezers, needles, thermometer, insulin, prescription medicines, denture equipment, contact lens & supplies, extra eye glasses, Vaseline, aspirin

Clothing/Bedding

Sanitation:
Toilet paper, towlettes, soap, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags, plastic bucket with airtight lid, disinfectant spray, household chlorine bleach

Bottled Water
One gallon per day per person

Emergencies
Police/Fire 911
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
1-800-311-3435
DC Emergency Management
202-727-6361
Poison Center
202-625-3333

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Local Utilities
PEPCO
202-833-7500
Washington Gas
1-800-752-7520
Verizon-DC
1-800-275-2355

During and after a blackout occurs, it is important to STAY CALM. Even after an event, there may still be many dangers.