PREPARE YOURSELF BY DOING THE FOLLOWING

**Keep your cell phone fully charged when the power is on.**
If your cellphone battery is low, remember that you can use your car charger in your car.

**Remember to switch off your oven** if it was on when the power outage started.

**Keep boiled water in thermos flasks** for hot drinks during a power outage.

**Invest in a small gas lamp** for good quality lighting over a large area.

**Prepare meals beforehand in case of a power outage.**

**Invest in a small gas cooker** for essential cooking and to boil water for hot drinks - make sure you have an extra bottle of gas.

**Make use of surge protection:**
Electric surges are one of the biggest causes of damage to equipment during a power outage. **Installing a surge protection device** can help minimise damage. Have a surge protection device fitted to your electrical distribution board and switch off all devices when not in use - protects from surges, but also reduces energy use.

**Access, security and safety** always remain a top priority - Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it.

**Also keep a key to your house** with you in case your usual access to your house uses an electricity connection.

**Load shedding may result in alarm systems not operating properly therefore check with your insurer** if you are covered should you have a break in while the alarm is not powered.

**Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed** at all times - a power outage of four hours should not cause food spoilage and a freezer should keep food frozen and safe for at least a day.

**Keep frozen bottled water in your freezer to help keep food cold** during a power outage.

**Keep a small gas cooker** for essential cooking and to boil water for hot drinks - make sure you have an extra bottle of gas.

**Keep a small torch** on your bedside table at all times - make sure you have an extra set of fresh batteries.

**Keep a battery- or solar-powered torch** or candles in a place where it will be easy to find in the dark - make sure you have an extra set of fresh batteries.

**Keep refrigeration and freezer doors closed** at all times - a power outage of four hours should not cause food spoilage and a freezer should keep food frozen and safe for at least a day.

**Most medication that needs refrigeration** can be kept in a closed fridge for several hours without spoiling - it is essential that you check with your doctor or pharmacist to be sure about your type of medication.

**Back up your data:** Make it a priority to save your data offsite, in case of a hard drive crash or unforeseen electrical fault. Online “cloud-based” backups are very convenient and are mostly automated, which means that you have one less thing to worry about.

*Originally adapted from: Eskom Corporate Affairs, February 2015, For more info go to: [www.eskom.co.za](http://www.eskom.co.za)*

*Source: [http://www.eskom.co.za/AboutElectricity/FactsFigures/Documents/LoadSheddingChecklist.pdf](http://www.eskom.co.za/AboutElectricity/FactsFigures/Documents/LoadSheddingChecklist.pdf)*

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