



Monsoon season brings many challenges in the way of destruction, temporary inconveniences, flooding and of course dirty cars. One of the most inconvenient after math of a storm is power outages.

If you live in a community that is hit by rolling power outages there are a few safety tips you should be aware of:

- Check on those individuals that are alone or elderly, they are more likely to be affected by the heat.
- Keep flashlights and extra batteries handy, and be sure everyone knows where they are located. Use your car or battery powered radio to keep up to date with the news and progress being made in restoring the power.
- Know how to open the garage door without using the electric opener.
- Keep a supply of water, nonperishable foods and a manual can opener handy.
- Make sure animals have plenty of water a shady place to rest.
- Never connect a generator to your homes' electrical system.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. If the refrigerator is kept closed it can keep food cold for approximately four hours. A full freezer can hold its temperature for about two days.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not cook indoors with devices designed for outdoor use only, such as charcoal grills and camp stoves.
- Turn appliances and electrical equipment off and unplug them.
- Travel only if necessary.
- Leave a light on so you know when power is restored.
- When the power comes on wait 5-10 minutes before turning on the air conditioner or other appliances. This will prevent overloading the system and may avoid another outage.

**Information provided by Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Red Cross.*