



First 10 Minutes Emergency Checklist

(What to do immediately when the power goes out)

1. Safety Sweep (2 minutes)

- Smell for gas
- Listen for carbon monoxide alarm
- Look for downed power lines or fire hazards
- Check for flooding, broken pipes, or tree damage

2. Basic Communications (1 minute)

- Send group text to family or neighbors
- Check if outage is just your home or widespread

3. Electrical Safety (1 minute)

- Unplug major appliances (TV, computer, AC, etc.)
- Leave one light on to monitor power return

4. Emergency Kit & Lighting (2 minutes)

- Grab flashlights/headlamps (avoid candles)
- Locate emergency supplies
- Check batteries, phone chargers, radio

5. Fridge & Water Plan (2 minutes)

- Keep refrigerator and freezer closed
- Fill bathtub or containers with water (if on a well)
- Check freezer thermometer (above 40°F = toss perishables)

6. Assign Family Roles (2 minutes)

-  Adult 1: Outside check (hazards, damage)
-  Adult 2: Set up supplies and lighting
-  Older kids: Help with pets, comfort younger ones
-  Younger kids: Stay safe, help where they can

Tip: Print and post this near your fridge, inside a cabinet, or with your emergency kit.