

# Let there be LIGHT...in an Emergency!

## CAUTION!

1. **Have a fresh Fire Extinguisher nearby** (ABC Type)
2. **Have SAND as an extinguisher back up for gasoline or kerosene fires.**
3. **DO NOT throw water on a liquid fuel fire!** (Fuel floats on water and will spread the flames!)



4. **Gasoline, White Gas and Propane produce carbon monoxide. Never use indoors!**

## Emergency Radios

Purchase an **NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)** set. NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days/week. An NOAA radio should have:

- A tone alarm
- SAME technology
- Selectable event alerts
- Battery Backup
- External antenna jack

## BASIC PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENCY LIGHTING

1. **Redundancy** – Have several ways to meet your lighting needs
2. **Spare Parts** – have extra matches and spare mantles, glass chimneys, burner assemblies and funnels
3. **Familiarity with Options** – When unfamiliar with lighting options or only using them on rare occasions, then please be extra cautious. The first long power outage shouldn't be the first time you take your new Coleman lantern out of its box!

## TYPES OF EMERGENCY LIGHTING

(Information adapted from <http://www.theprepperjournal.com/2013/07/18/lighting-options-for-when-the-power-goes-out/> . Please click - or copy and paste the URL- to see more complete information.)

### Battery-operated lighting

- Buy headlamp flashlights so that you can move around with your hands free. They are inexpensive, even with powerful LED light bulbs. Most use AAA batteries.
- Maintain a supply of easily located flashlights and fresh batteries
- Look for high output (300 lumen +) flashlights that are waterproof and shockproof
- Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries and a solar battery recharger



### Solar-operated lighting

- Relatively inexpensive
- Obviously, need sun to recharge
- Tend to put out less light than you expect (think of solar sidewalk lights)
- Good to use when you have nothing else, but not the best option.



### Mechanical (hand-generated) lighting

- Inexpensive
- Have a small motor that is activated when you either crank a handle or squeeze a lever for a long time
- Inconsistent performance; some are just novelty items



### Candles

- Inexpensive
- Can be long lasting
- Don't put off much light so you need more of them
- Puts out decent amount of heat; can be used to reheat food
- Depending on candle, may put out smoke and soot
- Open flame fire hazard; consider using candles in glass containers for stability



### Oil Lamps (Use with wicks) (see fuel options on next page)

- Reasonably priced
- Have a sturdier base than most candles
- Brighter light than a candle
- Safer to walk around with than a candle, but still a danger if dropped
- Flame is better protected from the wind than a candle
- Can be used indoors with the right fuel



### Gas Lanterns (Use with mantles)

- Use outdoors only; requires ventilation
- Incredibly bright light output
- Safety depends on fuel used (see next page)





LIGHTING FUEL TYPE	PROS	CONS
<b>Olive Oil</b>	Safest oil to burn Safe to store indoors Almost any container can be turned into an olive oil lamp If the lamp overturns, it is self-extinguishing Offers little to no fire hazard	Expensive
<b>Motor Oil (Outdoor only)</b>	Low flash point like olive oil Slightly higher fire danger	Don't use in oil lamps Burns dirty; lots of soot and smoke
<b>Liquid Paraffin</b>	High grade kerosene that burns with little or no smoke or odor.	Highly flammable. Caution!
<b>K-1 Kerosene (Use K-1 not regular kerosene in oil lamps)</b>	Suitable for oil lamps Burns bright. Relatively Inexpensive Easy to find; can buy in bulk Burns easily and hot Can be used indoors Stores Indefinitely	Burns dirty; leaves soot Smells Flammable-use with caution
<b>Diesel Fuel</b>	Similar to Kerosene	Burns dirty; leaves soot Smells Flammable-use with caution Do not use in oil lamps. Only has an 18-24 month shelf live without additives
<b>Unleaded Gasoline (Outdoor only)</b>	Some lanterns can burn gasoline or white gas.	Highly flammable. Caution!
<b>White Gas/ Coleman Fuel/Naphtha (Outdoor Only)</b>	Used in White Gas Lanterns Is highly refined gasoline Unlike gasoline, has no additives 5-10 Years storage life Relatively Inexpensive Easy to Light and Burn	Volatile Priming Required Highly Flammable-Caution!
<b>Propane (Outdoor Only)</b>	Useful for lanterns and camp stoves A by-product of natural gas Held in liquid form inside container Relatively inexpensive Readily available Comes in various sizes Can fill smaller containers from larger. Stores Indefinitely Rotten egg smell alerts you to leaks	If leaking, gas can accumulate and explode at ignition source

### What to do when the Power Goes Out

- **Report the outage** to the power company. If localized, they may not be aware of the outage.
- **If there are downed power lines in the area, call 911 immediately.** Assume all downed power lines are energized.
- **Do not shower during an electrical storm.** Lightning can travel through pipes.
- **Do not make phone calls using land-lines during an electrical storm.** Lightning can travel through the phone lines.
- **Turn off or unplug major appliances and most light switches.** When the power is restored, and all electrical devices turn on at the same moment, may cause an area wide circuit overload and lead to a **second** power outage.
- **Be aware that food in your refrigerator and freezer will spoil quickly without power.** If you don't have a generator to provide backup power, be prepared to consume or cook whatever you can before the internal food temperature reaches 40°F. Anything 40°F is considered in the danger zone in which bacteria multiply rapidly, When in doubt, throw it out!!
- **If you have particular medical needs,** make sure you "buddy up" with someone who can help you during an outage. If possible, seek shelter in areas where the power is on.
- **Keep the refrigerator closed** to extend the life of your food.
- For extensive or long-term power outages, **listen to a battery or crank powered radio for important updates.**