

Weathering the Storm

We've had several weather emergencies in our area in recent years, and we're likely to have many more in the coming years. We in the Town of Hull provide this information to help you weather the storms ahead.

Town of Hull Services

The Town of Hull Municipal Building is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. We have a generator, so in a weather emergency you're welcome to recharge your I-phone or laptop computer here. If you're without potable water, you can get that here as well.

While our building is not a storm shelter, you're welcome to use our large meeting room as a temporary summer cooling site or winter warming site.

Other area warming sites in winter include Salvation Army at 1600 Briggs Street (open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.); Portage County Library at 1001 Main Street (open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 Monday through Saturday & 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 Sunday); Stevens Point Recreation Center at 2442 Sims Avenue (open 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.); Portage County Aging & Disability Resource Center at 1519 Water Street (open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); and Frame Presbyterian Church at 1300 Main Street (open 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.).

Other area cooling sites in summer include Salvation Army at 1600 Briggs Street (open 24 hours a day Sunday through Saturday); Portage County Public Library at 1001 Main Street (open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday; and 9:30 to 1:00 p.m. Saturday); and Portage County Aging & Disability Resource Center at 1519 Water Street (open 7:30 to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays)

Before the storm hits

1. Unplug any sensitive electronics that might be affected by brownouts/blackouts.
2. If you don't already have one, buy a battery powered NOAA Weather Radio, so you can learn of alerts and know what's coming your way.
3. If you have your own well, consider filling your bathtub so you'll have water with which to flush your toilet if the power goes out.
4. If you have space in your freezer, fill it with one or more bags of ice. You'll lower your electricity bill, and the ice will come in handy if the power goes out.
5. If you have an electric garage door opener, make sure you learn how to manually open and close your garage door.

Have these things on hand

- Three gallons of water for each person in your home.
- At least three days' worth of non-perishable food, including canned fruits and vegetables as well as nuts, peanut butter, granola bars, and comfort foods
- A good manual can opener as well as paper plates and cups
- Working flashlights and battery-operated lanterns
- Lots of fresh (rechargeable) batteries.

To weather the storm

- If it's a winter storm, close off any unneeded rooms to reduce heat loss.
- If your power is out, don't open your freezer or refrigerator any more than you must.
- Turn off as many lights and appliances as you can, so they aren't hurt by power fluctuations.
- Don't run a gasoline or propane heater or a gas or charcoal grill in your home or garage. They produce carbon monoxide.
- If you use candles, be careful to avoid causing a house fire.
- If you have a generator, keep it at least 20 feet downwind from your home. Don't run it in your home, garage, or near windows or doors.
- As soon as you know there's an electric power outage, call Wisconsin Public Service at 1-800-450-7240.
- If you notice a gas leak, get out of your home. Then call Wisconsin Public Service at 1-800-450-7280.

In closing

In a winter or summer weather emergency, be sure to check on your elderly or disabled neighbors to make sure that they too are weathering the storm. If you find them in distress or if their power is out and they have important electric-powered medical equipment, contact Emergency Services at (715) 344-7438.

If you or your neighbor have no power or heat in the winter and need to be evacuated, call the Portage County Sheriff's office at (715) 346-1400. Also, if you or your neighbor need overnight accommodations, contact Emergency Services at (715) 344-7438.

We're all in this together.