

Being prepared for Mother Nature

Another storm is forecasted to rip through Michigan, and Consumers Energy is ready to answer the bell yet again. Wind, ice, rain, snow — whatever Mother Nature throws at us — our crews handle safely and efficiently.

That's because we have taken detailed steps to get ready days before the storm strikes.

And once we get done with this storm — it's on to prepare for the next one. It's what we do.

We encourage our customers to not take any chances. As the last few years have shown us, we all need to be prepared for the unexpected.

Here are some safety tips in preparation for and during the next storm.

Downed wires can be deadly

If you see a downed wire, please stay at least 25 feet away from it, and anything it is touching. Once you're safe, call 9-1-1. Then call us at 800-477-5050.

Prepare an emergency kit

Create a preparedness kit for your car and home. Things to include: water and canned food. Blankets, flashlights and batteries and a battery-operated radio are always good ideas.

Stock your pantry

Keep non-perishable food items, a manual can opener and plenty of bottled water on hand.

Be sure your food is safe after an outage

Visit [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) to learn about food safety guidelines. Discard food that has become unsafe.

Keep important phone numbers handy

Keep a list of emergency contact information and important numbers somewhere easy to find.

Protect your equipment from power surges

Unplug sensitive electronics like TVs, computers and printers, and turn off power strips.

Ensure your phone has power

Always have an emergency battery or charging station at hand for use during an outage. Conserve phone batteries by reducing screen brightness and using airplane mode. If you charge a phone in your vehicle, don't run your vehicle in your garage.

Leave the Light on For Us

Keep your porch light switched on so crews can see when power is restored. Leave an indoor lamp turned on so you'll know when power is restored.

Read and follow our tips for generator safety

Generators can be great during an outage, but they can also be dangerous to you and to our crews. [Read and follow our tips for safe operation.](#)

Prepare with emergency power for life-support equipment

If someone in your home relies on life-support equipment, be prepared. Install a generator to provide emergency power, and enroll in the American Red Cross Identification Program.