

## Winter Power Failure

Most Canadian home-heating systems depend on electrical power to operate the furnace, forced air circulation and thermostat controls. Winter power failure and heat loss can damage homes and create difficult living conditions. Know what to do if your home suffers a power and heat failure.

### Keep on Hand:

- Emergency supply of foods that require no preparation.
- Flashlights and a battery-powered radio with fresh batteries.
- Anti-freeze to protect plumbing.
- Simple fire-fighting equipment and tools.
- CSA approved emergency heating equipment, such as camp stoves, kerosene heaters, or firewood and adequate fuel to operate a fireplace or woodstove. Do not store fuel in the house.
- Candles or lanterns to provide light.

### When the Power Goes Off:

- Notify local hydro supplier.
- Turn off all electrical appliances.
- Turn on battery powered radio for information.
- Don't panic. When doors and windows are kept closed, houses remain bearably warm for several hours.
- Conserve fuel by warming only one room and keeping temperatures low but bearable. Wear heavy clothing.
- Switch to emergency heating equipment before house gets too cold.
- Check plumbing to ensure that water pipes are not freezing up.
- If there is a risk they will freeze, follow procedures in the following section (If You Abandon House).

### If You Abandon House:

- Turn off main electrical switch.
- Turn off water main where it enters house and cover the valve, inlet pipe, and pump or meter with a blanket or other insulating material.
- Open the drain on the water heater and all taps inside the house, and flush toilets several times. Plunge toilet bowls, sink and bath drains and then add anti-freeze.
- Check draining or frost protection instructions in operating manuals of appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, etc.
- Blow out horizontal water lines that won't drain when valves are open. (Use a tire pump).

### When Power Returns:

- Turn off emergency heating equipment.
- Turn on main water valve, closing taps on the lowest level of the house first.
- Let water heater fill up before turning it on.
- Warm house at temperature slightly above normal for a few hours to dry it out.
- Flush toilets, drain sinks and tubs to dispose of anti-freeze.
- Check food supplies for spoilage - food kept in the freezer will remain frozen for 24 to 48 hours after power failure if freezer door remains closed.
- Turn on the main electrical switch.