MIDWEST MINUTE

You're surfing the web on your phone when a notification appears...

SEVERE STORM WARNING TONIGHT; 6PM TO 8PM

What's your first thought?
If we took a survey, a lot of you would probably say,

"I HOPE MY POWER DOESN'T GO OUT."

PREPARING FOR OUTAGES

Weather, wildlife, and other unforeseeable circumstances mean outages are inevitable, but there are ways to prepare yourself. Stay ahead of the next outage with these tips:

- **Keep your phone charged.** While you may not have Wi-Fi, you should still have cell service. Make sure your phone has enough battery life to keep you up to date on restoration progress, or to make emergency calls. You might consider buying a portable power bank for some extra juice.
- **Have supplies ready.** Make sure you have enough water and non-perishable food to last your family and pets. You should also keep a first-aid kit, flashlights, and batteries on hand.
- **Buy a portable generator.** In a worst-case scenario, your power could be out for a few days at a time. In this situation, a generator can ensure you have enough energy for the essentials.
- Have things to do. Nobody likes to be bored when the power is out and that goes double for kids who are used to having all kinds of electronics at their disposal. Board games, puzzles, and other low-tech entertainment can keep your mind off it. Who knows? You might even find a new family hobby.

THE PATH TO POWER RESTORATION

What happens at MEC when your power goes out? Take a look behind the scenes.

1 Reports Come In

The more reports we receive, and the more details you include in your report, the more accurate the process becomes.

2 We Dispatch Crews

If you see one pass, don't worry – they're headed to the biggest and most urgent jobs first.

3 Crews Investigate Issues & Identify Hazards

This includes fallen power lines, which pose a major threat to passersby.

4 Repairs Begin

Substations come first, then major lines, then lines to your home.

5 Power is Restored

The order of service line repairs means your power may not come on at the same time as your neighbor's.





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