

Name: _____

Date: _____

Step 5: Emergency Lighting & Radios

Don't be left in the dark! Before the next emergency or disaster strikes, make sure you and your family are ready to survive without electricity for hours, possibly days or weeks. In the event of an emergency, it will be critical that you have a portable radio. Reliable information and instructions are essential after a damaging disaster or emergency. Protect yourself and your family by including portable radios or televisions and extra batteries in your emergency preparedness kits today.

Suggested Items:

- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Spare flashlight bulbs
- Lantern powered by battery
- Water proof matches or lighter
- Lightsticks
- AM/FM radio. Store at least 3 sets of alkaline batteries for standard units. The best radio is one that has rechargeable NI-cads built in, and may be charged with the built in solar cell, or by cranking on a built in generator handle.

Optional Items:

- Extra batteries for hearing aids, TDDs, wheelchairs
- Weather radio or police scanner
- Small portable television
- Generator

Don't forget to...

- Try to use items that are rechargeable (e.g. flashlights that use a crank or shaking mechanism to generate power) and therefore won't require batteries.
- Place a flashlight in every room of your home, especially next to each family member's bed.
- Consider using emergency lights that plug into an outlet and turn on when power is disrupted. Placing one by each exit will illuminate your path if you need to evacuate your home.
- Replace stored batteries and check expiration dates on lightsticks every 6 months.

SAFETY TIP:

DO NOT use items that rely on an open flame for lighting. Large and even moderate aftershocks that usually accompany damaging earthquakes can topple these items and cause fire. Items with open flames can also trigger explosions by igniting leaking gas.

Resources

- A simple web search for “emergency lighting and radios” will show a list of merchants that sell these items for your emergency kit.
- You can also find emergency lighting and radios at your local sporting goods stores.