

Power outages

Power outages are often accidental in nature and can last anywhere from several hours to several days. You should be prepared.

- ☺ In the event of a power outage that appears to be localized, check the breakers or fuses in your own electrical panel; there could be an overload or a short-circuit. In the event of an outage that appears to be generalized, **notify Hydro-Quebec by calling 1-800-790-2424**. Summer or winter, unplug your electrical appliances, except for the refrigerator, freezer and one light source per floor. Keep a flashlight close at hand and use a battery-operated radio to keep abreast of the situation. If you must use matches and candles, do it safely.

DURING A WINTER POWER OUTAGE :

- ☞ Keep doors and windows tightly closed.
- ☞ Lower thermostats to avoid overloading the system when the power is restored.
- ☞ If you have a fireplace or controlled-combustion wood stove, stock up on firewood. Beware of overloading.
- ☞ If you must leave your home, turn off the main water valve and open all faucets.
- ☞ Empty drains and pipes.
- ☞ Pour antifreeze down the drains.
- ☞ Cut the power at the main switch.

AFTER THE POWER OUTAGE :

- ☞ Turn the main water valve back on, release the air in your pipes and, one by one, turn off the faucets and close the drains.
- ☞ Fill the water heater before turning it back on.
- ☞ Restore power at the main switch.
- ☞ Wait a few minutes before using electrical appliances, particularly heating units, to avoid an overly large demand that could result in another outage.