

Ice Storm Review

What Worked & What Didn't Work

Worked - L&JF

- #1 best thing was having seasoned wood & wood stove
- Gas cooking stove
- Sparke charged batteries we brought in the house for charging devices
- Deep pantry had foods we could reheat
 - Had just baked bread and cookies day before weather hit
- French press for coffee and having pre-ground onhand
- Sky lights for natural lighting during the day hours
- Reliable flashlights with lamps for evening lighting
- Having water and natural gas
 - Able to shower (big water tank) and used hot tub (new insulating cover) for 2 days after power outage
- Charged Handheld Short Wave Radio was used to check extent of damage in LO
- Closed off living room and opened door to rest of the house
- Gas hand held chain saw for tree limbs
 - Empty yard debris barrels to send off on collection day
- Having a hobby that needs no power to enjoy it and a stash to work from
- Coolers outside utilizing the cold weather
- Notified Neighbor to give a heads up that we were out of power they might be next
 - Checked on Neighbors who might not be as prepared

Didn't Work – L&JF

- Cell service went out
 - No internet from my phone - couldn't check weather
 - No texts - would go through
 - No emergency phone
- Forgot to unplug the hot tub
- Not enough Batteries for charging up during the day while we were using them in the house
 - we would have had to disconnect batteries to charge at the solar panel
- Need a bigger inverter to run freezer or refrigerator

Things to Improve - L&JF

- Need more foods that only require reheating
- Freeze some bread and cookies for longer outages
- Milk jugs altered to make better room lamps
- Battery Xmas lights in rooms for lighting
- Make a list of things to do to get ready for the power outage.
 - ie. Unplug major appliances and strip outlets but include studio too.
- Think about how to manage studio with no heat source.
 - Battery operated heat tape for pipes?
- Purchase two Inverters (2Kw) and get two more batteries
- Move 1Kw inverter to Studio for pipes
- Purchase remote Thermometers for frig/freezer

Worked – RB&AT

- Small wood stove, installed three years ago
 - Energy retrofit, insulation added, house better sealed
 - Firewood, split and stored next to backporch for easy access
 - Small house, with rooms we could close off, to heat less space
- Gas stove in kitchen, back-up small butane stoves, with extra fuel, but not needed
 - Lots of cooking, for hot meals and entertainment
 - Cooked one meal on wood stove, for fun, plus tea kettle at the ready
- Good stainless airpot and carafe, for saving tea water and tea for later, plus some washing up
- Several battery lanterns, with stash of spare batteries, not needed (LED lanterns)
 - Recently stocked up on headlamps, so enough for pockets and around the house
- Electric chain saw, used on big tree limb from neighbor's yard
- Batteries for tools charged up ahead of time
 - Tools all Makita, to share batteries (including a stick-vac)
- Deep-cycle batteries kept charged by moveable solar panels
 - Enough deep-cycle batteries to rotate out for recharging with solar
 - Two inverters, for two appliances, fridge and freezer, plus charged devices
 - Kitchen fridge only 1.2 amps, freezer 5 amps, good to know, for planning battery use
 - Enough extension cords
 - No loss of food, with some vigilance toward temp checks and rotation of batteries
- Recent curbside groceries Feb 6th, from Fred Meyer and Safeway, plus deep pantry
- Cell signal most of the time
- When called by neighbor that power was going out, flipped breakers with electronics on them
 - At same warning, plugged things into still on house power for charging
- Water and sewer okay, plus backup water and a compost toilet in the boat

Didn't Work – RB&AT

- Without cell coverage - no easy way to check on family & neighbors
- Couldn't invite neighbors over to warm up, for CV-19 reasons
- Missing wing nuts for deep-cycle battery posts, had to use clamps
- Couldn't watch a movie or keep warm in the car, as the doors were frozen shut

Things to Improve - RB&AT

- String 12v garden lights through the house, connected to a deep-cycle battery
- Set up solar panels earlier, test system ahead of time
 - Have all battery connections at hand (did hit Ace for wing nuts after the thaw)
- Get a car cover, so we can watch movies
- Split & season more wood
- Make waffles with the non-electric waffle maker

Worked – RE

- The wood stove & plenty of seasoned firewood
- The generator, inverter type Honda
 - Fuel- plenty of gasoline stored for generator
 - Extension cords (lots) & splitter cords
 - Kept refrigerator & freezers cold
- Gas chainsaws- both were ready to go
- Food- visited store 2 days ahead of weather
- Batteries- recharged battery packs ahead of weather
 - Flashlights with battery packs (Milwaukee tools)
- Camp stove with propane bottle for heating foods & water for tea
- Natural gas water heater
- Water & sewer
- Stick on HD antenna for local TV channels

Didn't Work – RE

- Communication
 - cell service was weak & poor
 - Cell phone hot spots did not work
 - Texts were delayed before sending
 - Cable & internet
- Attempted to wire inverter generator to furnace- didn't work
- Kitchen appliances

Things to Improve - RE

- Invest in Starlink for internet
- Practice & test hooking up generator to furnace
- Buy a cheap microwave for heating up foods & heat packs

Worked - DK

- Efficient wood stove & plenty of seasoned firewood-also used for cooking
- Food – well stocked
- Natural gas water heater
- Flashlights & headlamps with fully charged batteries
- 3600 watt generator with a connection to circuit breaker box
 - Fuel – plenty of pure gas on hand (no gas with ethanol)
 - Extension cords
 - Kept refrigerator & freezers cold
- Batteries
 - plenty of batteries in every size on hand
 - Power banks – all USB power banks were fully charged
 - 150 A-hr battery pack with inverter fully charged (Solar panels for recharging)
 - 25 A-hr battery pack with USB & Anderson connectors with 12 volt lights

Didn't Work – DK

- Kitchen appliances
- Communications
 - Cell phone hot spots did not work
 - Cable & internet
 - What I would do differently next time
 - Invest in Starlink for internet
- Items lent to neighbors
 - 900 watt backup generator
 - Gas chainsaw – with fuel, chain oil & bottles of oil for fuel mixture
 - Indoor propane heaters with plenty of propane

Things to Improve - DK

- Generators

- Know how to setup & operate your generator before an emergency
- Keep your generator in a ready state
 - Full of oil with spare oil on hand
 - If you have a generator hookup for your circuit breaker box, store the cable with your generator
 - Have a security chain & a lock to secure the generator
- Know where to set up your generator to ensure that the exhaust is not too close to air vents
- If buying a generator, get the appropriate size.
 - Too large will burn more fuel & too small will not run everything that you need
 - Add up wattages of all of the devices that you need & want to use
 - Use the generator wattage chart to help you determine the size generator that you need

- Heating

- Electric heaters take a lot of electricity and although your generator may be able to run them it will burn up more fuel. It's more efficient to use an indoor propane heater
- Indoor propane heaters that use the small green tanks can also use the larger propane tanks, but require an adapter. That will allow the heater to be run all night without changing out tanks