

Impacts	Preparations
<b>Shopping, fuel and cash</b>	
<p>Many shops will be forced to close because they rely on electronic systems to take payments. Fridges and freezers will be out of action as will fuel pumps and cashpoints.</p>	
Provisions	Keep a stock of non-perishable (dried and canned) foods, plus water.
Cash	Store an amount of cash for emergencies.
Fuel	Keep a litre canister of fuel in your car for emergencies plus always fill your vehicle before the fuel gauge gets to empty.
<b>Special aids</b>	
<p>Care in the home is often reliant on electrical assistive equipment. Though some items are designed with battery backup, it is important to understand how long this would last.</p>	
Stair lifts, hoists, assistive technology	<p>Make sure any electrically powered medical equipment you have at home has a battery back-up.</p> <p>If you have a mains-operated stair lift, check there is a manual release handle that can be used to return the stair lift safely to ground level.</p> <p>Ensure you are signed up to the Priority Services Register: <a href="http://www.westernpower.co.uk/About-us/Priority-Services">www.westernpower.co.uk/About-us/Priority-Services</a></p>
<b>Neighbours</b>	
<p>Work together as a community to ensure that all those who need help in a power cut can be assisted.</p>	
Working together	Speak to neighbours about their plans if a power cut was to occur and check if between you, you have a means of cooking and access to hot water using gas appliances etc. Also swap telephone numbers for use if needed.
Be a good neighbour	<p>Ensure vulnerable neighbours have sufficient supplies and a means of contacting friends or relatives in an emergency.</p> <p>Check</p>