START HERE

Quick Start

The shortest path to a first result. Fifteen minutes, start to finish.

Read this before anything else

Fifteen minutes from now

You do not need to read everything first. Do these four things in order and you will have a real result before you open the full guide.

1. Print the Failure Order worksheet and fill it in for your own address - six systems, time to first consequence.

2. Build the three-tier Load List from nameplates and a plug-in meter, and circle the tier-one total.

3. Do the sizing arithmetic once: running total plus the single largest surge, and runtime with the 0.85 inverter factor.

4. Walk the house room by room after dark and place a tested light in every room.

5. Run the 90-minute drill this week and write down every failure.

> If you only ever do the four steps above, this was worth buying. Everything else in the kit makes the result better, not possible.

What is in the rest of the kit

- **The First 72 Hours: What Actually Fails, And In What Order** — Most outage planning fails because it starts with equipment. You end up owning a generator and still losing the contents of your freezer, because...
- **Your Real Load List: What You Need To Run, Not What You Own** — A load list is the single document that turns outage planning from shopping into arithmetic. Without one, every product looks plausible and every...
- **Sizing Without Guesswork: Running Watts, Surge Watts And Runtime** — Three numbers decide whether a power source fits your plan, and sellers quote them inconsistently on purpose. Running watts is what a device draws...
- **Choosing The Source: Power Station, Generator Or Home Battery** — There are three honest answers to "what should I buy", and which one is right is determined almost entirely by facts you have already written down. A...
- **Fuel, Charging And The Refuel Plan Nobody Writes** — A power source without a resupply plan is a countdown. The most common failure in a household outage plan is owning the equipment and running out of...
- **Carbon Monoxide, Backfeed And The Rules That Are Not Negotiable** — This is the module where the stakes stop being convenience. Carbon monoxide from portable generators kills people in outages every year, and almost...

- **Food: The Fridge And Freezer Clock, And What To Eat In What Order** — Food decisions during an outage are made badly because they are made while hungry and in the dark. Written in advance, they are simple. The numbers...
- **Water: Pressure, Storage, Heating And Sanitation** — Water is the system households plan for least and need most, and the first question decides everything: well or municipal. On a private well, the...
- **Winter: Keeping One Room Livable And The Pipes Unfrozen** — In cold weather an outage becomes a building problem as well as a comfort problem, and the two are solved differently. Heating the whole house...
- **Summer: Heat Illness Thresholds And The One-Room Cooling Strategy** — A summer outage is more dangerous than most plans acknowledge, because heat kills quietly and air conditioning is the one load almost no household...
- **Medical Devices, Medication And The Cold Chain** — If anyone in the household depends on powered equipment, this module outranks every other one in the kit, and it is the one place where the plan must...
- **Communications: Phones, Radios And The Family Contact Plan** — Communications fail in two stages, and households plan for the first and are surprised by the second. The first stage is your own battery, and that...
- **Light And The Room-By-Room Readiness Pass** — This is the module that turns a document into a prepared house, and it is done on your feet rather than at a table. Walk every room with the plan in...
- **Money, Documents And Access When The Systems Are Down** — A surprising amount of an outage is administrative, and these are the failures that are trivial to prevent and genuinely disruptive to meet...
- **Children, Older Adults And Pets** — A plan that only works when the calmest adult is home is not finished. This module distributes it. Children do better with a job than with...
- **The 90-Minute Drill, And Keeping The Plan Current** — An untested plan is a document, and documents fail in predictable ways: the batteries are flat, the cord is too short, the release cord is tied up...

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