

Get ready for a storm

Tips on preparing for a storm-related emergency — and how to stay safe if one hits

SAFETY AT HOME

STAYING WARM IN THE COLD

- If you use a fireplace, burn seasoned wood with the damper open.
- Fill portable heaters outdoors and store fuel outdoors in proper containers. Ventilate kerosene heaters. Keep heaters away from curtains, bedding, furniture, clothing and flames, and always turn off space heaters before going to bed.
- Make sure children and the elderly are dressed warmly, in layers, with head, hands and feet covered.
- Give pets food, water and dry shelter. Keep them away from antifreeze. Bang car hood before starting car in case a cat is sleeping near a warm engine.

TURNING OFF UTILITIES

You should know where controls for utilities are, and how and when to turn them off.

Electricity

Locate the main electrical switch or fuse panel, and turn off the electrical power system.

Water

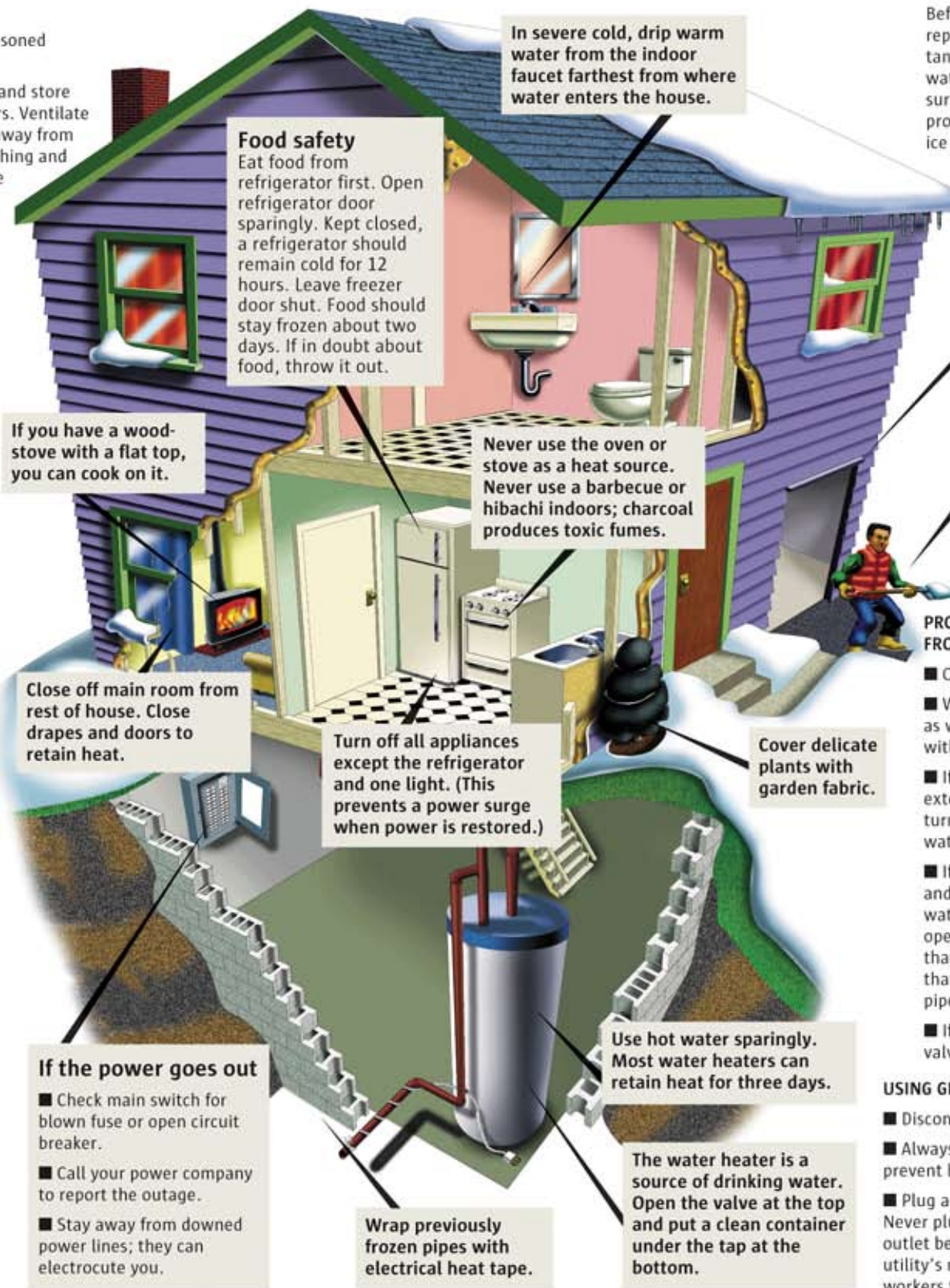
Turn off water at the main meter or the water main leading to the house. The valve requires a special wrench, available at a hardware store. Turn to the right. Your water heater also is an emergency source of water. Turn off the electricity or natural gas, attach a garden hose to the spout and open a faucet in the house.

Gas

Turn off gas only if you hear a hissing noise. Use a wrench. Evacuate immediately if you smell natural gas or propane, and go to where you no longer smell gas. Contact the gas company to turn it back on.

Sewer

Make sure it is working properly before using it to prevent contamination of your home and possibly drinking water.



SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Before cold hits, check antifreeze, replace an old battery, keep gas tank near full to avoid freezing water in the fuel line, and make sure tires and spare tire are properly inflated. Keep gloves, ice scraper, chains and other emergency gear in car.

If power goes out, use manual override on garage-door opener.

Shoveling snow

Push snow when possible. If you must lift it, protect your back by squatting with legs apart and back straight. Do not bend at waist or twist body.

PROTECTING WATER PIPES FROM FREEZING

- Outdoors, drain all faucets.
- Wrap outdoor faucets and pipes, as well as pipes in unheated areas, with insulated covers or pipe sleeves.
- If building is unheated for extended periods, drain pipes and turn off main shutoff valve and water heater.
- If pipes freeze, wrap with rags and pour hot water over rags until water flows again. (Never use an open flame or electric device to thaw pipes.) When pipes are thawed, remove wet rags and wrap pipes with dry insulation.
- If pipes break, close main shutoff valve and call a plumber.

USING GENERATORS SAFELY

- Disconnect house circuits before using.
- Always operate unit outdoors to prevent buildup of toxic fumes.
- Plug appliances directly into generator. Never plug generator into a household outlet because power can flow back to utility's main system and injure utility workers trying to restore power.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

To find shelter: Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System on KIRO-AM (710) radio. **Water problems:** Seattle, 206-684-5941; after hours, 206-386-1800.

Snohomish County: Call your local utility. **Power outage:** Seattle City Light, 206-684-7400.

Emergency Seattle Resource Center: 206-386-1800. **Puget Sound Energy:** 888-225-5773.

Seattle Emergency Alert Stations:

KIRO-AM 710, FM 100.7, KOMO-AM 1000, KNWX-AM 770 and KVI-AM 570.

Web sites: www.fema.gov, www.redcross.org, www.seattle.gov/emergency, www.metrokc.gov/prepare.