

6. Stairlifts	
<b>Date checked</b>	Stairlifts are battery powered - when not in use, battery quickly recharges. The stairlift is not permanently plugged in and drawing power. Power requirement is minimal - approximately 77c per month (the same as one cycle of the dishwasher). Cost is based on the price of 1Kwh in Ireland in November 2022.
	In the event of a power cut you will still be able to use the stairlift provided it is charged. Please remember that batteries won't last forever if power is out. A lot depends on how old the batteries are and how much charge the batteries have when you lose power.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service contract: When the stair lift is installed, it is advisable that an annual maintenance contract is arranged so that the stairlift is checked and serviced on a regular basis. This will involve a regular service charge.</li> <li>• An emergency callout arrangement with the company should also be considered.</li> </ul>

7. Through Floor lifts	
<b>Date checked</b>	Domestic lifts are equipped with a battery back-up facility if a power cut occurs. This is a standard fitting and allows the users of the lift to descend to the lower level of the home and wait until the power comes back on.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service contract: When the through floor lift is installed, it is advisable that an annual maintenance contract is arranged so that the lift is checked and serviced on a regular basis. This will involve a regular service charge.</li> <li>• An emergency callout arrangement with the company should also be considered.</li> </ul>

When power is restored	
<b>Date checked</b>	Check to make sure the settings on your medical device have not changed (medical devices often reset to a default mode when power goes out).

Other Back-up Plans and Important Contacts	
<b>Updated on</b>	

## Emergency Power Planning for People Who Use Electricity and Battery-Dependent Assistive Technology and Medical Devices

In some instances, a person may require continuous access to power at home if they are dependent on specialised medical equipment or devices or battery dependent assistive technology such as:

- Breathing machines (respirators and ventilators)
- Power chairs and scooters
- Oxygen, suction or home dialysis equipment
- Floor or ceiling covering hoists
- Air alternating mattresses

Some of this equipment is essential to your level of independence. The following checklist was adapted and devised to help with planning in order to minimise the consequences and impact of a loss in power. Please refer to the areas on the checklist that apply to your situation.

Use the checklist to make power-backup plans - review and update it every six months. (To help you remember, do this is when you set your clocks forward in spring and back in the autumn.)

\* Remember to contact your power and Gas providers to register as a **Vulnerable Customer**. All necessary information will be available on their websites. Each company has their own Vulnerable Customer Policy in line with recommendations of CRU (Commission for Regulation of Utilities Ireland).

### Emergency Power Planning Checklist

Planning Essentials	
<b>Date checked</b>	<b>Create a plan for alternative sources of power.</b>
	Read Equipment instructions and talk to equipment suppliers about your back-up power options.
	Get advice from the power company regarding the type of back-up power you plan to use.
	Regularly check back-up or alternative power equipment to ensure it will work during an emergency.
	Teach your neighbours and caregivers how to use your back-up systems and operate your equipment.
	Keep a list of alternate power providers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask your local gardaí, fire departments and hospital if you could use them as a back-up for your equipment if power pack systems fail.</li> <li>• Have contact numbers available for local fire and civil defence services.</li> </ul>
	Label all equipment with your name, address and phone number. Attach simple and clear instruction cards to equipment and cover them with clear packing or tape.
	Keep copies of instructions for each piece of equipment, along with serial and model numbers, in a waterproof container or in your emergency supply kits.
<b>Please refer to the checklist as applicable – see sections overleaf</b>	

## 1. Life support devices.

<b>Date checked</b>	Contact your power and water companies about your needs for life-support devices (home dialysis, suction, breathing machines, and others) in advance of a power disturbance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many utility companies keep a 'priority reconnection service' list and map of the locations of power- dependent customers for use in an emergency. Ask the Customer Service Department of your utility companies if this service is available. Note that even if you are on the 'priority reconnection service' list, your power could still be out for many days following a disaster. It is vital that you have power back-up options for your equipment.</li> </ul>
	Let your fire department know that you are dependent on life-support devices.
	All ventilator users should keep a resuscitation bag handy. The bag delivers air through a mask when squeezed.  If you receive dialysis or other medical treatments, ask your health care provider for the plans in an emergency and where you should go for treatment if your usual clinic is not available after an emergency.

## 2. Oxygen Use

<b>Date checked</b>	Check with your health care provider to see if you can use a reduced flow rate in an emergency to extend the life of the system. Label your equipment with the reduced flow numbers so that you can easily refer to them.
	Be aware of oxygen safety practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid areas where there are gas leaks or open flames.</li> <li>Post 'Oxygen in Use' signs.</li> <li>Always use battery powered flashlights or lanterns rather than gas lights or candles when oxygen is in use (to reduce fire risk)</li> <li>Keep the shut-off switch for oxygen equipment near you so you can get to it quickly in case of emergency.</li> </ul>

## 3. Use of Generators

<b>Date checked</b>	Make sure that use of a generator is appropriate and realistic.
	Generators vary in size depending on what you want to power off them (KW rating) and do require a good deal of space to store them. A 2,000 to 2,500-watt gas-powered portable generator can power a refrigerator and several lamps. (A refrigerator needs to run only 15 minutes an hour to stay cool if you keep the door closed. So, you could unplug it to operate other devices.)
	Operate generators in open areas to ensure good air circulation. They must be situated either externally or in a room where fumes can be vented outdoors.
	Safely store fuel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The challenge when you live in an apartment is knowing how to safely store enough fuel.</li> <li>Store a siphon kit.</li> <li>Consider storing in a fireproof cabinet.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">...../continued</p>

## Use of Generators... continued

<b>Date checked</b>	Test your generator from time to time to make sure it will work when needed.
	Some generators can connect to the existing home wiring systems; always contact your utility company regarding critical restrictions and safety issues.
	Generators can be bought from a good hardware store or possibly a store that sells power tools. Please note: a minimum of 50HZ is required to power an air mattress.
	There can be diesel or petrol generators. Diesel are more expensive to buy but are more efficient to run.
	"Key Start" or "Push Button" is preferable to "Pull Start".
	A registered electrician is required to install and connect it as it requires a transfer switch. Please refer to SAFE ELECTRIC: the statutory regulatory scheme for electrical contractors is operated by the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI) on behalf of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU).

## 4. Rechargeable Batteries

<b>Date checked</b>	If you use hearing aids, keep a supply of hearing aid batteries on hand.
	Create a plan for how to recharge batteries when the electricity is out.
	If you use a motorized wheelchair or scooter, try to store a lightweight manual wheelchair for emergency use.
	Stored extra batteries require periodic charging (even when they are unused) for floor covering, hoist batteries and powered chairs. A spare battery is often provided. If your emergency preparedness strategy depends on storing batteries, closely follow a recharging schedule.
	Know the working time of any batteries that support your systems.
	When you have a choice, choose equipment that uses batteries that are easily purchased from nearby stores.
	Check with your vendor/supplier to find alternative ways to charge batteries. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting jumper cables to a vehicle battery.</li> <li>Using a converter that plugs into a vehicle's cigarette lighter or accessory outlet, that is a 12V charging point.</li> </ul>

## 5. Mattresses

<b>Date checked</b>	In the case of air mattresses that rely on power, it is important to check with the supplier as to the particular protocol in the case of a power outage. For many of our clients who require assistance with bed mobility, a scan turn rotational mattress is recommended by nursing staff.  In the case of a power outage with this type of mattress it will lose its' rotational therapy function instantly. There is a 3" static air cell that will remain inflated for 3-4 hours to provide air support with no power. Beneath this layer is a further 2" foam layer.
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