



POWER-OPERATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Depending on the nature of the emergency, the first important decision you will need to make is whether to **STAY** or **GO** and **HAVE A PLAN FOR BOTH POSSIBLE SCENARIOS**.

To make an informed decision, follow the official sources of information and monitor TV, radio and official emergency alerts coming to your cell phone.

If **staying at home** is the safest and best option, consider that you will need to have **supplies, medications and resources to SELF-SUSTAIN for at least 7 DAYS**.

Including **alternative solutions** if the utility services are impacted by the emergency or disaster. Dangerous conditions might **stop** traveling: Including **9-1-1, Public transportation or meal deliveries**

Creating an emergency plan for power operated medical devices, consider the following 3 steps:

- 💡 **Teach others how to use your equipment** and ensure they understand the contingency of alternative power solutions.
- 💡 **Contact your utility provider** to talk about backup power options and keep a list of emergency power providers.
- 💡 **Find alternative power sources** and review your equipment's instructions



Figure 1 – First image a house, second image a power operated wheelchair

EQUIPMENT USE

Battery dependent assistive technology and medical devices, **are equipment essential to your level of independence or vital to keeping you alive**. Some of these devices include: breathing machines (respirators, ventilators), power wheelchairs and scooters, oxygen, suction, or home dialysis equipment.

- 📁 Maintain **relevant information** about medical equipment organized in a waterproof bag that you can easily carry with you if you must evacuate. The information should include **medical device model, serial number, vendor information, and instructions manual on how to operate it**.
- 📁 Contact your insurance provider to see if you qualify for a **manual backup device** in case of a power outage or damage to your powered equipment.

TEXAS UTILITY COMMISSION RESOURCES

APPLICATION FOR CRITICAL CARE AND CHRONIC CARE REGISTRIES

Available online at: www.puc.state.tx.us/industry/electric/forms/critical/ccform.pdf

- **The application must be emailed/faxed by your physician.**
- Submission of this application **does not automatically result in chronic condition or critical care status.**
- Chronic conditions or critical care status **does not guarantee an uninterrupted, regular, or continuous power supply.**

The Texas Public Utility Commission Electric Outage Viewer is online at: www.puc.texas.gov/storm/map

POWER-BACKUP CHECKLIST AND SAFETY

- **Ask a Professional**
- **Follow safety recommendations**
- **Use generators outdoors and at least 20 FT AWAY from building openings**
- **PREVENT carbon monoxide poisoning**
- **During and after the emergency plan for having limited access to gas stations**
- **Follow fuel storage guidelines**



Figure 2 – 4 images of different power generators

For more recommendations on how to safely select and use power-backup visit:

- <https://adata.org/factsheet/emergency-power>
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use.html> and
- <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/use-generators-safely-home>
- Call your local Fire Department.