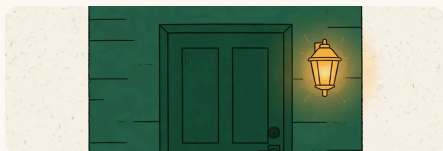




Twelve ways to make your home safer in an emergency.

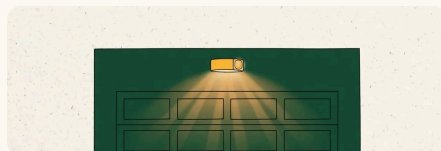
The fixes that matter most when the power, the water or the neighborhood is not normal.

1 Doors that actually lock



- Solid core doors with a deadbolt
- Three-inch screws in the strike plate
- A door brace for the back door

2 Light outside



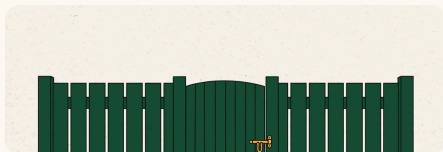
- Motion lights at every entry
- Solar ones keep working in an outage
- Dark corners are the problem, not the yard

3 Windows and glass



- Pin locks on ground floor sliders
- Security film on the glass by the door
- Keep a pre-cut plywood sheet if storms are your hazard

4 A clear edge to the property



- Fences and gates that close and latch
- Trim bushes below window height
- Thorny plants under windows do quiet work

5 Backup power, done right



- A generator runs outside, twenty feet from the house
- Fuel stored sealed, away from living space
- A power station or solar for phones and lights

6 Water you already have



- One gallon per person per day, two weeks if you can
- Rain barrels for flushing and washing
- Know where the main shutoff is

7 Supplies you rotate



- Food you actually eat, bought a little extra at a time
- First aid, medications, hygiene
- Store what you use, use what you store

8 A plan everyone can say



- Two exits from every room
- Where to meet, who to call
- Practice it once a year, make it short

9 Information that does not need wifi



- A battery or crank radio
- Local alerts turned on, on every phone
- One out-of-area contact for check-ins

10 Documents and valuables secured



- A fireproof box or a bank box
- Copies in the cloud and in the go-bag
- Do not post what you own

11 A property that is kept up



- Fix the fence, the roof leak, the broken latch
- Clear brush and gutters if fire is your hazard
- Neglect reads as empty

12 Neighbors who know you



- Trade phone numbers with three houses
- Know who has medical needs or lives alone
- A street that talks is the best alarm there is

Light, locks, water, supplies, and neighbors who know your name.

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