MEMBERS VAULT · PRINTABLE

The Practical Household Kit

A room-by-room gap checklist and a one-page plan for the first evening the power is out.

To be used with The Practical Field Guide, What Would We Do If...?, and The Offline Advantage

HOUSEHOLD NAME _____ DATE REVIEWED _____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

Most of what a family needs on an ordinary outage is already in the house — it just isn't gathered in one place, and nobody has written down who does what. This kit is a calm way to walk the rooms you actually use, mark what you have, what you still need, and what can wait, and then hang a one-page plan on the fridge for the first evening the power is out. It is not a bunker manual and not a promise. It is a gap checklist and a simple order of work, drawn from the books this kit sits with. Start with a flashlight in every bedroom, the water you already have, and a plan everyone in the house can follow.

WHAT'S IN THIS KIT

Part 1. Household Preparedness Gap Checklist — room by room, then a one-page list of gaps to close.
Part 2. Lights-Out Evening Plan — a single fridge-door page for the first evening the power is out.

This kit is a planning aid for ordinary household prep and an ordinary power outage. It is not a guarantee, not emergency-response training, and not medical, legal, or engineering advice. If someone is seriously ill or injured, or if the situation is dangerous, get professional help.

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Part 1 — Kitchen

Walk the house as it really is. Check Have, Need, or Later for each row. Pull examples only from the books this kit sits with; blank rows are for what your household actually uses. Do not invent a shopping list from empty boxes.

KITCHEN

A lot of an ordinary outage is decided here: light, the food already in the house, and the water you can reach without leaving home.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Drinking water you already have (jugs, bottles, or a stored supply) *What If, Fifteen Minutes Tonight; pantry and bunker water chapters*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Shelf-stable food your family already eats *Pantry Stage One; Field Guide emergency pantry*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Manual can opener (the pantry book recommends two) *Pantry ch. 2 / App. B*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Flashlight or battery lantern *What If, ch. 1 — a flashlight in the kitchen*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Appliance thermometer in the fridge and freezer *What If, ch. 1, Get ready now*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Cooler and ice packs, or frozen water jugs in the freezer *What If, ch. 1*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Important paper copies kept here, if any (no account numbers or passwords on this form) *Field Guide go-bag / documents note*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Bathroom and Hall / linen closet

BATHROOM

Hygiene and the everyday medicine you already use often live here. Mark what is actually in this room, not what you wish were here.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Everyday medicine you already use, if you keep it here *Bunker App. C; Field Guide medical supplies — a prompt only, not a treatment list*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Soap, toothpaste, and basic toiletries *Pantry ch. 2 household basics; Field Guide go-bag*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
First aid supplies, if stored here *Bunker ch. 10 / App. C; Field Guide*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Hand sanitizer, wipes, or gloves *Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Flashlight, if you keep one here *What If / Field Guide — light within easy reach*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

HALL / LINEN CLOSET

Spare light, spare blankets, and anything you would rather not hunt for in the dark belong in a place everyone can reach.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Extra blankets or towels (towels can also roll against door gaps in a cold house) *What If ch. 2*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Spare flashlight or lantern *Field Guide — lights in convenient locations*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Spare batteries *Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Important paper copies in a waterproof sleeve, if you keep them here (do not write account numbers, passwords, or other sensitive data on this form) *Field Guide go-bag; Bunker App. C documents*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Bedrooms

BEDROOMS

The What If book starts with a flashlight in every bedroom, in the nightstand, with working batteries. Walk each bedroom you actually use.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Flashlight with working batteries in each bedroom *What If, Fifteen Minutes Tonight and ch. 1*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Extra batteries in the sizes you use *Bunker App. C; What If ch. 1*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Warm layers, hats, or extra blankets / sleeping bags *What If, ch. 2; Field Guide comfort; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
A change of clothes and dry socks, if you keep a spare here *Field Guide go-bag; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Everyday needed medicine kept at the bedside, if any *Bunker App. C — follow your own prescriptions*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Living area

LIVING AREA

This is often the room a family gathers in when the house goes dark. Keep the first-hour tools easy to find.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Flashlight, headlamp, or lantern *What If ch. 1; Field Guide; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Battery or hand-crank radio (for news if phones and internet are down) *What If ch. 1, Get ready now*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Charged power bank and phone charging cables *What If ch. 1; Field Guide; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Extra blankets or sleeping bags *What If ch. 2; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
A simple activity for children (books, cards, or a game) *What If ch. 1 — a calm "camp-in" night; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Carbon monoxide alarm on this level, with working batteries *What If ch. 1 and ch. 2*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Garage, shed, or laundry

GARAGE, SHED, OR LAUNDRY

Only list what you already keep here. If you own a generator or a camp stove, this sheet is a reminder to review the book's safety notes — it is not a procedure for using them.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Stored water containers, if you keep them here *Pantry ch. 7; Bunker ch. 10*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
A basic tool kit *Field Guide — a tool kit in the car or garage as a foundation*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Work gloves and sturdy shoes, if stored here *Bunker ch. 10 and App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
If you already have a camp stove or grill: it stays outdoors. Never use a grill or camp stove indoors. *Pantry ch. 2; What If ch. 1 (CDC)*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
If you already have a generator: review the safety rules in What Would We Do If…?, Chapter 2, before you need them. Outdoors only. *What If ch. 1–2; Field Guide — generators outdoors, away from openings*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Basement, spare room, or shelter (if you have one)

BASEMENT, SPARE ROOM, OR SHELTER (IF YOU HAVE ONE)

Skip this section if you do not have a spare room or shelter. If you do, treat it as one more place you already keep things — not as a requirement.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Stored water and a way to treat more, if kept here *Bunker ch. 10 and App. C; pantry ch. 7*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Shelf-stable food and a manual can opener *Bunker ch. 10; pantry Stage One*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Light, radio, and spare batteries *Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
First aid kit and a few days of daily medications, if stored here *Bunker ch. 10 and App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Blankets or sleeping bags, a change of clothes, sturdy shoes *Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Battery smoke, carbon monoxide, and (in a shelter) CO2 alarms *Bunker App. C and ch. 10*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Part 1 — Vehicle and Other place we actually keep things

VEHICLE

The Field Guide treats a vehicle kit as a small, practical bag for a roadside problem or a delay getting home — not a second household.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
Drinking water in the vehicle (and a habit of replacing what you use) *Field Guide — vehicle emergency kit / go-bag water*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Flashlight *Field Guide vehicle kit; What If*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
A small first aid kit *Field Guide*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Phone charging cable; if you ever charge from the car, the car stays running outside, never in a closed garage *What If ch. 1*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
Printed list of phone numbers, or a paper card (phones die) *What If, Fifteen Minutes Tonight; Bunker App. C*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

OTHER PLACE WE ACTUALLY KEEP THINGS

A closet, a relative's house, a shed shelf — write the place, then list what is really there.

Item or need	Have / Need / Later	Location	Notes
(Write the place and the item) *Your household*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
(Write the place and the item) *Your household*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
(Write the place and the item) *Your household*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
(Write the place and the item) *Your household*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
(Write the place and the item) *Your household*	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		
	☐ Have ☐ Need ☐ Later		

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Gaps to close

A shopping and finishing list, grouped by need

Copy only what you marked **Need** on the room pages, grouped by kind of need. Buy or build only what you actually marked. Later items can wait.

What we need	Where we'll keep it	Done	Notes
WATER			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
FOOD			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
LIGHT			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
WARMTH			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
PHONES AND CHARGERS			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
SANITATION AND HYGIENE			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
FIRST AID AND EVERYDAY MEDICINE			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
IMPORTANT PAPER COPIES			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	
OTHER			
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	

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Part 2 — Lights-Out Evening Plan

A simple order for the first evening the power is out

Most outages are caused by storms, wind, heat, or equipment failure, and most are fixed within a few hours. You won't know how long this one will last, so the first hour matters. The goal tonight is simple: stay safe, keep the cold in, and know when it's coming back.

This page is meant to stand alone on a fridge. Fill in the locations and one non-sensitive contact in pencil. This page may be seen by anyone in the house, so do not write account numbers, passwords, or medical details here.

1. **Get light the safe way.** Grab flashlights or battery lanterns. Skip candles — the What If book notes they are a leading cause of home fires during outages, and the Red Cross recommends flashlights instead.
   Who does this _____
2. **Check on people, and on everyday needed medicine.** Make sure everyone in the house is accounted for. Everyday medicine you already use should be where you wrote it below.
   Who does this _____
3. **Check if it's just you.** Look out the window. If your neighbors have lights, check your electrical panel for a tripped breaker. If the whole street is dark, it's an outage.
   Who does this _____
4. **Report it, if the street is out.** Call your power company or use its app or website. The number belongs on this page and on the fridge.
   Who does this _____
5. **Unplug sensitive electronics.** TVs, computers, and gaming systems can be damaged by a surge when power returns. Leave one lamp switched on so you'll know when it's back.
   Who does this _____
6. **Keep the fridge and freezer closed.** A first-evening check, not a multi-day food-safety manual. A closed refrigerator keeps food cold for about 4 hours; a full freezer about 48 hours, a half-full one about 24 (FoodSafety.gov, as cited in What Would We Do If...?, Chapter 1).
   Who does this _____
7. **Phones, chargers, and any backup you already have.** Lower screen brightness and use low-power mode. Charge from a power bank, or from the car's charger while the car is running outside — never in a closed garage.
   Who does this _____
8. **Use the water already in the house.** Drink and cook from the stored water you filled or bought. If you ever need the main shutoffs, know where they are ahead of time (What Would We Do If...?, Fifteen Minutes Tonight). You do not need to touch them for an ordinary outage.
   Who does this _____
9. **Warmth, and one room to gather in.** In cold weather, gather in one room, close the doors, and layer up with blankets. In hot weather, move to the lowest floor, close blinds on sunny windows, and drink water. Never heat the house with a gas oven, stovetop, grill, camp stove, or a generator indoors.
   Who does this _____
10. **Optional: tell one neighbor or family member.** The What If book also has you check on older neighbors and anyone who uses medical equipment that runs on electricity, when you can do that safely.
    Who does this _____

FLASHLIGHTS LIVE _____ EVERYDAY MEDICINE LIVES _____

STORED WATER LIVES _____ UTILITY / OUTAGE NUMBER _____

ONE CONTACT (NAME AND NUMBER — NON-SENSITIVE) _____

IN THE MORNING

- [ ] Check whether the power is back (the lamp you left on).
- [ ] If it is still out after about four hours, start sorting food using the FoodSafety.gov guidance in *What Would We Do If...?*, Chapter 1 — when in doubt, throw it out.
- [ ] Stay away from downed power lines. If you see a line on the ground, assume it's live, keep people and pets far away, and call 911 and your utility.
- [ ] If you are considering a generator or any fuel-burning heat, stop and read the safety rules in Chapter 2 of *What Would We Do If...?* first. Outdoors only, and never in a garage, even with the door open.

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When you put the kit away

The checklist tells you what is already in the house. The plan on the previous page is for the first evening the lights go out. The method, the why, and the longer situations stay in the books.

For the first hour of an ordinary outage, and for the fifteen-minute start that puts a flashlight in every bedroom, use *What Would We Do If…?*. For go-bags, vehicle kits, light, and the other field skills that sit behind a household kit, use *The Practical Field Guide*. For paper copies, contacts, and working without a screen, use *The Offline Advantage* when you have it at hand. If you keep a backyard shelter, the supply chapters and the 72-hour checklist in *The Practical Backyard Bunker* will fill that room on the gap list. Everyday first aid belongs in the kit as a prompt only; for home-care methods, see *The Practical Home Remedy Book*, and follow professional advice when someone is hurt or ill.

A SMALL PRACTICE

On a calm evening, walk the house with this checklist, fill the Lights-Out page, and put it on the fridge. That is enough for one night's work. You can close the gaps over the next few grocery trips.

You're more capable than you've been led to believe, and the right plan makes an ambitious evening of prep doable. The books have the rest.

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