

**Southern Pines Police Department**  
**Safety Tips**  
*Power Outages*

Power outages are a fact of life. Take a few moments to prepare for any future outages that might occur. Whether due to a power grid problem, an ice storm or weather related problem or simply a line problem in your neighborhood, the result is the same – no electricity. It is a good idea to have a battery operated radio or television so you can keep up on the latest news. While candles may provide light, if they are not attended or are used carelessly, a fire can result. Instead, make sure you have a supply of flashlights on hand and stock up on batteries. Keep a supply of water, powdered drinks and other staples available and keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full. If an outage happens, check to make sure stoves, coffee makers, heaters, air conditioners, dehumidifiers and any other appliances are turned off. When the power returns, you don't want these appliances to turn on and potentially start a fire or experience a power surge. If you have a generator, make sure it is properly installed by a licensed electrician and is kept outside. If not properly ventilated, the exhaust from the engine can cause deadly fumes to enter your house. NEVER use a generator in an enclosed garage, porch or inside a building. If you have questions, contact the company that supplies your electricity for guidance and information about the scope of the problem and estimated repair time. Contact 911 only if you need the services of police, fire or ambulance. Since some criminals take advantage during these situations, be aware of suspicious people in the neighborhood and report that to 911 immediately. Working together, we can help keep our neighborhoods safe during a power outage if we practice these simple steps.

**For more information or a presentation on this topic, contact the Community Services Coordinator at (910) 692-2732.**