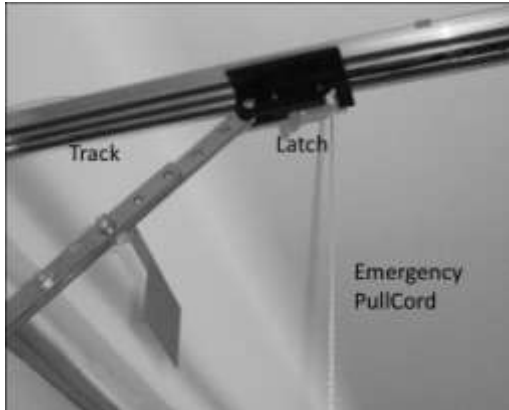


## Power Failure Tips

If there is an electric power failure that goes on for some time you need to know the following. Gas stove top burners will work if lit with a match. So if you remember how to make coffee with a percolator you have it made (does anyone own a percolator other than for espresso?). Or you could boil water for instant coffee or tea. The oven will not light, so don't bother trying, the oven has a safety sensor that



will not let it light unless the ignition glow device is working and that works on electricity. The hot water heater will work because no electricity is involved if it is a gas water heater. Obviously, the water heater will not work if it is electric.

Garage door – Open and closing. You can open your garage door without electricity by pulling down on the cord hanging from the sliding device. This will disengage the chain, screw, or belt and allow the door to be lifted freely. Now, you can close the door when you



leave, but to latch it you will probably need a small step ladder to push the mechanism back into a latched position or just close it all the way and no one will know the difference.

There is usually a latch on each side of the door that you can also use to lock it in a down position. You should also lock the door from the garage to the house. Once the power

comes back, pull the emergency disconnect cord towards the motor, open the door partially and activate the opener with the remote control. It will automatically reconnect with the sliding device.

Freezer/Refrigerator – Eat out, do not open the doors if you can avoid it. A freezer that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full will probably keep everything from thawing for about 8 to 12 hours and maybe longer if you keep the doors closed. Avoid the urge to peek, the food will not escape! Same thing with the refrigerator.

Timers – Okay the power has been off for some time and then it comes back on. Now you will have to reset all your timers, stove, microwave, alarm clocks, light timers including your outside light and the ornamental lights. The hot water re-circulator also if you have one. The thermostat should be fine if you have a good battery in it (you did change it this year, right?) and the cable boxes will reset themselves automatically. The computer should stay off until you turn it back on and normally nothing adverse will happen except maybe to lose something you were working on. If you have more than one computer and they work off a router then you will have to shut off the power to the computer, cable modem and your router. After 30 seconds reconnect the power to the modem, then the router and then turn on the computer. Remember, if you get your telephone service through your Cable Company, the telephone will not work because the modem will be without power. You should have at least two flashlights in the house and they should have fresh batteries each year (whether you used them or not) and be stored in an easy to remember and convenient location. Touch lamps and remotely controlled lights sometimes turn themselves on after the power returns, so check them out.

I turn my air conditioner off. If the power is off for a little while and it comes back on and stays on that should not hurt your air conditioner or refrigerator but if the power comes back on and then off again and then on again it could damage your compressor, especially if your refrigerator and air conditioner try to come on at the same time. A refrigerator/air conditioner compressor should have time to equalize pressures within the unit so starting is not a strain on the compressor/motor. So I turn mine off until I know the power is really back. If it is off for awhile keep the doors to your house closed as much as possible so that in the summer the house will stay cool and in the winter it will stay warm.

Old articles at <http://www.bellboatbob.com/fairwaysmaintenance.htm>

Bob Mattsson