DFW seasonal readiness checklist

Four short windows a year. Tick each item, then put the sheet with your outage kit.

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FEBRUARY

Late winter

- [ ] Read the household plan again and update phone numbers
- [ ] Refresh nonperishable food and water
- [ ] One flashlight per person, spare batteries, charged power bank
- [ ] Update the list of medications and dosages
- [ ] Know where the main water shutoff and gas shutoff are

MARCH

Before spring storms

- [ ] Turn on emergency alerts on every phone; agree on a safe room
- [ ] Check that breaker labels are readable
- [ ] Have limbs near the service line checked by your utility
- [ ] Book generator service before April
- [ ] Portable owners: start it and run it under load for a few minutes

MAY

Before summer heat

- [ ] Service the air conditioning and replace the filter
- [ ] Check the generator's status light and any alerts
- [ ] Decide where you would go if the house got too hot
- [ ] Agree who checks on elderly neighbors or those living alone
- [ ] Appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and the freezer

OCTOBER

Fall

- [ ] Annual generator service before winter
- [ ] Clear leaves, mulch and stored items from around the unit
- [ ] Propane units: check the tank level
- [ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries
- [ ] Portable owners: store fuel as the manufacturer directs

Keep on hand all year

- [ ] Nonperishable food and water
- [ ] Flashlights for everyone, batteries
- [ ] Charged power banks
- [ ] Cooler and ice packs
- [ ] Medication list and a plan from your provider
- [ ] Carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup on every level
- [ ] This sheet and your utility's outage number
- [ ] A printed list of contacts

From the HomeSafe guide "Getting ready for each season in DFW" at homesafetx.com/generator-basics/readiness-timeline-dfw/. Supplies, generator and medication items follow Ready.gov, Power outages (checked November 13, 2026). Run a portable generator outdoors only, at least 20 feet from windows, doors and attached garages. Backup for powered medical equipment is job specific and needs its own review. Last reviewed November 2026.