VILLAGE OF WILSON · NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Wilson Ready

Plain-language storm basics for our households — power, wind, water, heat.

Village Office
375 Lake Street, PO Box 596
Wilson, NY 14172
(716) 751-6764
vow@villageofwilson.org
Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
and 1–4 p.m.

GET THE ALERTS

Email vow@villageofwilson.org to join the Village email list, and follow **Village of Wilson** on Facebook. That is how we announce outages, boil-water notices, road closures and cooling locations.

OUTAGES & GENERATORS

POWER

Lakeshore outages here tend to come with wind. Plan for **48 hours** of running time, not four hours.

HOW MUCH FUEL TO KEEP ON HAND

A common home portable is about **3,500 watts**. Running the essentials — refrigerator, freezer, furnace fan, sump pump, a few lights — it burns roughly **a third of a gallon an hour**.

3,500-WATT PORTABLE GENERATOR	GASOLINE USED
Per hour	about 0.3 – 0.4 gallon
Overnight, 12 hours	about 4 – 5 gallons
One full day, 24 hours	about 8 – 10 gallons
Two days, 48 hours	**about 16 – 20 gallons**

Bigger units burn more, smaller ones less. Rough rule: about a tenth of a gallon per hour for every 1,000 watts you are actually running.

> **Baseline: keep 20 gallons on hand** — four 5-gallon cans, stored properly. That is about two days of running, which covers most outages here. Keep the gas tank in your vehicle above half through storm season too; when the power is out, the pumps are out.

BUY THE RIGHT GAS AND ROTATE IT

- Use **ethanol-free gasoline** for anything you are storing over the winter or for months at a time. Ethanol pulls in moisture, separates in the can, and gums up small carburetors — it is the number one reason a generator will not start when you finally need it.
- Add **fuel stabilizer** to every can, label it with the date, and rotate it into the car or the mower every six months.
- Store cans in approved containers, out of the house and away from any pilot light or heat source.

CHECK THE OIL, AND START IT NOW AND THEN

- **Check the oil before every start, and every 8 hours while it runs.** Shut the engine off, wait 5–10 minutes, and check on level ground. Low oil is what kills these engines — the low-oil shutoff is a backstop, not a plan.
- Keep **two quarts of the oil your manual calls for** in the garage, plus a funnel. Most air-cooled units want SAE 30 above 50°F and 5W-30 in the cold.

- **Start it every month** and let it run 15–20 minutes with something plugged in, such as a work light or a space heater. A generator that sits all year is the one that will not start in the dark. Standby units run themselves weekly — leave that setting on.
- **Never refuel a hot or running engine.** Let it cool first.
- Also keep a spare spark plug, an air filter, a 12-gauge outdoor extension cord, and a working carbon monoxide alarm on every floor.

TWO THINGS THAT KILL PEOPLE EVERY WINTER

Carbon monoxide: run generators outdoors only, at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent — never in a garage, even with the door open.

Backfeeding: never plug a generator into a wall outlet. It can electrocute a lineman working on your street. Powering your panel requires a transfer switch or interlock installed by a licensed electrician.

THE FIRST 15 MINUTES OF AN OUTAGE

1. **Report it.** Call National Grid at **1-800-867-5222** or report online. Crews are dispatched off reported outages — assume no one else called.
2. **Is it just your house?** Look up and down the street. If your neighbors have lights, check your own main breaker before you call.
3. **Shut the refrigerator and freezer.** Closed, a fridge holds about 4 hours and a full freezer about 48. Every time you open it, that clock resets shorter.
4. **Unplug the sensitive electronics** and leave one lamp switched on, so you know the moment power returns and the surge does not hit everything at once.
5. **Set the generator up while it is still light.** Outside, on dry level ground, 20 feet from doors and windows, cords run before dark.
6. **Charge phones and check on neighbors** — especially anyone on oxygen, a stair lift, or a well pump. Text instead of calling; texts get through when circuits are loaded.

WIND & TREES

WIND

Who trims a tree depends on **who owns the road it stands along**. Three different agencies serve Wilson.

Lake Street

STATE HIGHWAY · NYSDOT

Trees, ditches and shoulders in the State right-of-way.

(716) 438-2396

Young Street

COUNTY ROAD · NIAGARA COUNTY HIGHWAY

County crews handle the County right-of-way.

(716) 439-7360

All other village streets

VILLAGE OF WILSON · DPW

Call the Village DPW.

(716) 751-9431

How wide is the right-of-way? Most New York roads carry a three-rod right-of-way — **49.5 feet total, about 24 feet 9 inches each side of the centerline.** Some are four rods (66 feet). Your lawn may be mowed well inside public land. The filed deed or highway map controls, so call the agency above before you cut, plant, fence or pile anything near the road.

THE DEAD TREE IS ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S LAND

- A leaning or dead tree on private property is the **owner's responsibility**. The Village cannot cut it.
- Don't know who owns the woodlot behind you? Parcel apps such as **Land iD** or **HuntStand** show property lines and owner names on your phone, as does the Niagara County parcel viewer.
- Reach out early and politely — before the storm, not after. Photograph the tree, and follow up in writing so there is a dated record that the owner was notified.
- Hire an insured, certified arborist. Ask for a certificate of insurance before work starts.

DOWNED WIRES — NEVER APPROACH

Treat every wire as live, always. Stay at least **30 feet** back and keep children and pets away. Never touch a limb resting on a wire, and never try to move a line yourself.

Wire down, arcing or sparking, or someone is in danger: call 911.

Any wire hanging low, sagging over the road, or disconnected at one end: call the Niagara County Sheriff's Office at **(716) 438-3393**. They dispatch and notify the utility. Also report it to National Grid at **1-800-867-5222**.

A cable or telephone line looks harmless and may still be energized by contact with a power line. Report it the same way.

HEAVY RAIN & STANDING WATER

WATER

Most wet-basement calls in the Village come down to one thing: **water is being allowed to sit against the foundation.** Move it away and keep it moving.

You can connect to the Village storm sewer. A permit from the Village DPW is required; contact the Village Office for the current fee — 375 Lake Street, (716) 751-6764. Getting the permit first protects you — an unpermitted tie-in can be ordered removed at your expense.

GET THE WATER AWAY FROM THE HOUSE

- **Extend the downspouts.** Six to ten feet out, or piped underground to the storm sewer or a daylight outlet. A splash block at the corner is not enough.
- **Raise and slope the soil.** Ground should fall about 6 inches over the first 10 feet away from the foundation. Use compacted soil, not loose topsoil or mulch, and keep it several inches below the siding.
- **Install a French drain.** A gravel-filled trench with perforated pipe intercepts water uphill of the house and carries it to a lower outlet.
- **Shape the yard.** A shallow swale or a berm can steer runoff to the ditch line instead of the low corner by your basement window.
- **Keep the path clear.** Clean gutters, open ditches, and an unclogged driveway culvert. Before a big rain, walk out and pull leaves off the storm grate on your street.
- **Check the sump pump quarterly.** Pour a bucket in the pit. Consider a battery backup — the water usually comes with the outage.

NEVER discharge a sump pump or downspout into the sanitary sewer, and never tie a sanitary line into the storm sewer. It overloads the treatment plant, it can back up into your neighbor's basement, and it is a violation.

On the road: turn around, don't drown. Six inches of moving water can take a person off their feet and a foot of it can float a car. Never drive around a barricade.

EXTREME HEAT

HEAT

Heat is the quiet one. It hurts older neighbors, people without air conditioning, and anyone working outside.

Martin Park splash pad

VILLAGE COOLING CENTER

The Village designates the splash pad as its cooling center. Free and open to all. Shade and running water — the easiest place to cool small children down on a hot afternoon.

Cooling locations

WATCH FOR THE NOTICE

When extreme heat is forecast, the Village announces cooling locations by email and on Facebook.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

- **Heat exhaustion:** heavy sweating, cool and clammy skin, weakness, nausea, headache. Move to air conditioning, sip water, cool with wet cloths. If it does not improve in an hour, get medical help.
- **Heat stroke — call 911:** body temperature above 103°F, hot skin that may be dry, confusion or slurred speech, fainting. Move them somewhere cool and apply cold cloths while you wait. Do not give fluids to someone who is confused.

Knock on the door of any neighbor over 65 or living alone, morning and evening, during a heat wave. **Never leave a child or a pet in a parked car.**

WHO TO CALL

Emergency — fire, police, medical
911

Village of Wilson Office
(716) 751-6764
vow@villageofwilson.org · 375 Lake Street
Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–4 p.m.

Village DPW / Water
Water main breaks, Village trees, storm grates
(716) 751-9431

National Grid — outages & downed lines
1-800-867-5222

Niagara County Highway (Young Street)
(716) 439-7360

NYSDOT (Lake Street)
(716) 438-2396

Niagara County Sheriff — non-emergency
Low or disconnected wires, road hazards
(716) 438-3393

Non-emergency help & referrals
Dial **211**

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