

# Auxiliary: “Before the Power Goes Out” and Planning for Boulder Mountain Handmade

By Ann Blonston

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: BACK-UP POWER

At the Auxiliary’s April meeting, Chief John Benson presented “Before the Power Goes Out: A Shocking and Most Electrifying Information Session That Will Leave You Amped Up and Fully Illuminated,” a discussion of back-up power options and preparedness. Auxiliary member Ann Harsh, of the Outreach and Education team, created a display of available products for emergency use.

Chief Benson reported that high wind events will recur more frequently and be more severe, which will cause more downed power lines and will prompt Xcel Energy to pre-emptively cut power for safety, with uncertain timelines for power restoration.

Chief focused on permanently installed standby generators with an automated transfer switch, powered by natural gas or propane,

while also discussing portable generators for more limited use that can be powered by solar, battery, or propane. At this time, Chief Benson found that permanently installed solar/battery back-up generators are more costly to install. (The Auxiliary will compile information on solar generators in the future.)

Chief Benson reminded attendees that the Four Mile Fire and the 2013 floods led to power outages for a week and longer, ruining perishable food and placing residents with medical devices at risk. Considerations in choosing a generator include cost, minimum electric service, noise, location on your property, and battery backup. He cited average Boulder County costs of installed generators at between \$6,000 and \$11,000, with some running \$20,000 or more. Like HVAC units, generators required regular servicing.

## PREPAREDNESS PRODUCTS (THAT ARE ALSO USEFUL IN DAILY LIFE) ASSEMBLED BY ANN HARSH INCLUDE:



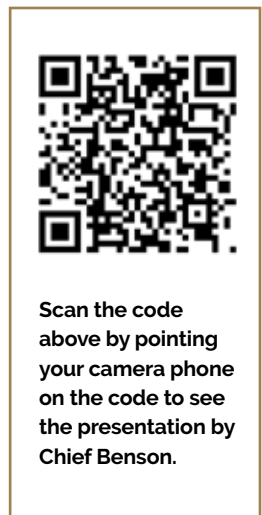
Emergency Radio with NOAA weather, hand crank AM/FM survival radio with flashlight, reading lamp and SOS siren. (product: QAUYYW 74000mWh, \$35)



Rechargeable Light Bulbs, up to 24 hours when fully charged. (\$17 for a 4-pack)



Camping lantern with multiple power supplies. (Duracell 2000 lumens #1654528, \$28)



Scan the code above by pointing your camera phone on the code to see the presentation by Chief Benson.



Power banks, battery operated candles, outdoor solar luminaria



**FUNDRAISING: BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE  
SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 8 & 9**

The Auxiliary’s long-running art and craft market returns to the Elks Lodge on November 8 and 9. Preparations are well underway: Over 50 artisan vendors have already reserved market booths. Guests will see 40+ returning vendors and will be delighted by over a dozen newcomers to the market, showing fine art, textiles, woodworks, fancy foods, jewelry, pottery, and more.

Community volunteers are creating popular craft items to donate to Boulder Mountain Creates, the market-within-the-market where 100% of proceeds go to BMFPD Auxiliary. Pine Brook resident Jane Glotzer coordinates “Creates” (group crafting sessions) and collects donations from talented residents.

All residents are welcome to join in. Jane welcomes knitters, weavers, glassworkers, woodworkers, metalworkers, and toymakers.

**Consider setting aside some crafting time this fall to support your fire department. Drop a note to [bmhcrafft@bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org](mailto:bmhcrafft@bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org)**

