Got A/C? Have a plan in place, just in case!



In the summertime, the hum of the air conditioning unit is a comfort. But what do you do if it goes out? Do you have a plan in place? Here are some helpful tips to make sure that you keep your cool all summer long:

What to do BEFORE there is a problem:

- Have your A/C unit serviced in Fall and Spring.
- Replace air filters regularly (typically every 90 days).
- Have a list of reputable A/C companies available.
- Have a plan of where to go if it goes out; if you have pets, make a plan for them as well.
- If funds are short, know where to get help for emergency A/C repair or funding assistance for energy bills. Wildfire, a non-profit organization, can assist: wildfireaz.org/find-help/energyassistance/. You can also check with your local utility service.
- If you can't leave your home, get a kiddie pool for people and pets, and keep ice packs in the freezer for cooling off.
- Know where your electrical panel is ahead of time.
- If there is an imminent storm, turn off your A/C unit. Power surges from lightning can overload units.

What to do WHEN there is a problem:

- Make sure the thermostat is ON and set to the right setting.
- Check that batteries are charged.
- Check electrical panel in case you need to reset a circuit breaker switch (You-tube has tutorials).
- If your A/C is still not working, contact a reputable A/C company.
- If you rent, you have rights! Check out <u>211arizona.org/crisis/heat-</u> <u>relief/heat-relief-arizona-tenant-</u> <u>rights-repairs/</u>
- Go somewhere cool the library, the mall, or find a local cooling center at:

211arizona.org/crisis/heat-relief/

- If you do need to stay home:
 - Turn off all lights.
 - Stay hydrated and eat noncook foods.
 - Remember, it may be cooler outside than inside.
 - Get wet! Use a spray bottle or a damp cloth to cool your skin.
 - Use window coverings in the day (can hang sheets/blankets).
 - Open windows at night.