



## Garage Doors – Opening With No Power

### Introduction

When power is out or garage door remote is not working, do you know how to open your garage door? When the power goes out automatic garage door openers don't work. Be prepared, and use this tip to practice.

Watch this excellent YouTube Video on **How To Disengage & Reengage Your Garage Door Opener** when there is no power:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL5iX-XUQLI>

### Manually Opening the Garage Door

- Locate the red pull cord that should be hanging from the door's trolley track
- Pull red cord **down** to release the door from the opener
- Then pull the red cord back towards the interior of the garage, towards the house, to put the door in the manual mode. Now, you should be able to raise and lower the garage door by hand
- A ladder is not necessary if you can reach the red cord from standing

### Re-engage Garage Door

- Once the power is back on, pull red cord towards the garage door, or the exterior of the home to reengage the opener to the trolley, OR wait until the power comes on, press the remote control and the opener will reengage and be fully operational again
- Practice – with car parked in garage. Open the door manually to make sure the door stays up
- If you know an announced power shutdown is coming, you might consider leaving your car out of the garage

### Possible Problems with Manually Opening the Door

- Red rope missing, too short, damaged?  
⇒ Amazon: Emergency Release Pull Cord (under \$10)

- No handle or poorly located?
  - ⇒ Home Depot: Everbilt Lift Handles, (under \$10 for 2)
- Noisy (i.e. could run quieter, therefore lighter!!)?
  - ⇒ use silicone spray from any hardware store (under \$10)

### Battery Backup

- Newer garage doors are battery back-up compatible
- If you're lucky enough to have one, parts are available for \$100 or less (battery & cable)
- Google search for your brand and model number of garage door opener to see if you are a lucky one!
- If not battery back-up compatible, garage door opener must be replaced with newer model, so cost will be \$500+
- Please note that the battery backup itself can last several years
  - ⇒ however, if the power is out, you may only be able to open and close the garage door 1 or 2 times
  - ⇒ once power is restored, the battery backup will recharge

**Tip#1:** you can connect a generator (located outdoors) to the opener with an extension cord so that it works when the power is out.

**Tip#2:** this is a great Tip to print out and post in your garage to have it handy.

