

How to Open Your Garage Door without Power

Power failures, possibly caused by a fallen tree, storm, earthquake, or power fault, will cause your electric garage door opener not to work. That could be a real problem if you need to get your car out to get to a doctor, evacuate or just go shopping. What can you do?

Actually, unless the garage door is jammed, as from an earthquake, you can usually open it fairly easily. Electric garage door openers have an emergency release mechanism that disengages the door from the trolley on the opener track. There should be a cord hanging down from the release as in the picture (if you don't have such a cord, you should add one or lengthen the one you have!). Just pull the cord to release (for safety, only pull the release when the garage door is fully down). The door can then be lifted open. It will not weigh as much as you might think, as the tension spring relieves most of the weight.

When power is restored, you can flip the latch on the release back to the closed position (use a pole or broom handle if needed), then use your opener control to move the trolley back and forth until it catches on the track mechanism. Your opener should now work to open and close the garage door.

