



Hazard #2



Electric Utility Failure

(Check EOP KIT INVENTORY)



Disruption of electrical service can occur as a result of several factors, including lightning, high winds, ice, heavy snow, and equipment failure and usually service is restored in a short time. However, major power outages can occur for extended periods of time. Refer to the Functional Procedures for “Shelter-In-Place” or “Evacuation,” as indicated. When power is lost, you should:



Water systems with electric pumps, such as wells or cisterns, will not operate when the power is out. Use alternate source of water until power is restored.

Gas appliances may not work if the electricity is off because the equipment may require electricity for ignition or valve operation.

Water heaters that are drained to prevent damage from freezing must have their power circuit shut off as well. Failure to do so could result in the loss of the heating element when power is restored. NEVER turn on a water heater unless the tank is full.

Plumbing can freeze when power is lost during cold weather periods. If applicable, turn the pump off and then drain supply lines at the lowest point in the house, water heaters, boilers, and traps in drains of tubs, sinks, toilets, washing machines, and dishwashers. To avoid major flooding when temperatures rise, turn off supply lines to outside spigots.

Life support equipment required for persons who depend on these devices (respirators, ventilators, oxygen equipment, or other life-sustaining devices) should be listed with the power company, with the primary doctor’s approval. **Target will have a contingency plan to include an alternate power source for the device and relocating the individual, should the need arise.**

Trees are a primary cause of power outages and power companies have regularly scheduled programs for trimming trees. When planting and/or trimming trees on the property, always seek professional help in trimming limbs or branches that are close to power lines.

Keeping Warm: Select a single room in the home in which the entire staff can live, ideally, a room that gets sunlight during daylight hours. Use fireplaces and wood-burning stoves with care and always supervise them when burning. Make sure the fireplace is in proper working condition and has been inspected before use. Wear layers of clothing, including sweaters and coats, which entraps warm air and helps to maintain body heat for longer periods. For homes with natural gas heaters, keep meters and vents clear of ice and snow.

Check to see if your neighbors have power. It may only be in your home, a blown fuse, or a tripped circuit. If your neighbors are also without service, call your local power company. If you must go outside to assess the situation, take a flashlight and watch for downed power lines that could still be energized. If downed lines are located, do not go near them or touch anything of which they may be in contact. Report downed power lines immediately.

Turn off major appliances. Leave two or three light switches on in the home and leave on the front porch light. When major appliances (refrigerators, electric water heaters, air conditioners and pumps) are left on, they could overload electric lines when power is restored, causing a second outage.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food can be kept cold enough for a day or two if the doors are kept closed. During the winter, you may be able to store some items outside in a proper container. If temperatures are below freezing, it is possible to freeze water outside in containers and place them inside your refrigerator to help keep food cold. Partially frozen foods can be refrozen as long as they contain ice crystals or are no warmer than 40° F. Consider purchasing a thermometer for both the refrigerator and freezer. Do not refreeze seafood, poultry, ice cream, cream sauces, or anything susceptible to spoilage. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

During times of prolonged outages, your power company may provide dry ice at a designated location. Bring an ice cooler or suitable container to transport it back home. As a rule of thumb, 25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic-foot freezer at the proper temperature (32° F) for three to four days.

Flashlights or battery-operated lanterns should be used to illuminate the site. Candles and kerosene lanterns are not recommended for lighting because of the inherent fire safety hazards and fumes.



Portable emergency generators can be used to provide limited electrical power during an outage. Take care to ensure that they do not pose a threat and never fuel or run a portable generator in the home or garage, as gas-powered generators pose a serious fire and carbon monoxide threat. Always operate according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

For additional information on the proper use of emergency generators, call your local power company.



Reminder: Check your EOP Kit Inventory and replenish it as needed.

