



5-minute safety talk

Power Outages

Power outages can occur at work due to weather conditions such as lightning, ice storms, high winds and flooding. Vehicle accidents and animals can also damage poles and power lines.

The steps to take can vary depending on the type of building (single level verses multiple levels), the type of work and dependence on electricity, the length of time electricity is unavailable, and weather conditions. Evacuation or moving employees, contractors, customers and visitors to an area with light and ventilation may be necessary.

PREPARE FOR A POWER OUTAGE

- ❑ Become familiar with your organization's emergency plan for power outages.
- ❑ Learn about actions to take such as unplugging computers and other equipment and leaving one light on to know when electricity is restored.
- ❑ Know the location of emergency supplies such as non-perishable food, bottled water, battery-powered radios, first aid supplies, flashlights and batteries.
- ❑ Learn how to manually open and close power operated security gates and doors.

DURING A POWER OUTAGE

- ❑ Follow organization protocol for reporting an outage.
- ❑ Shut off computers and other equipment in your work area. This will reduce demand and protect motors from possible surges when power is restored.
- ❑ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- ❑ Ensure that a light is left on so you know when electricity is restored.
- ❑ Follow your organization's procedures such as evacuating or moving or sheltering in place.

- ❑ If air-conditioning is not operating, drink fluids to stay cool. If the heating is out, wear layers of clothing to keep warm. During the summer, close window coverings and blinds during the day when the sun is shining for to keep heat out. In the winter, close window coverings and blinds at night to keep heat in.

AFTER AN OUTAGE

- ❑ Wait approximately 10 minutes before plugging electronics back in to reduce damage when power is restored.
- ❑ Follow other guidelines as directed by emergency, operations or IT personnel.



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