

ELECTRICITY SHORTAGE DISASTER RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Background:

An electricity shortage can cause rolling blackouts or unplanned blackouts throughout the city. Blackouts can last from seconds to days. There are many causes to electricity shortages in your area including damage to electric transmission lines, a short circuit, or the overloading of the electric power supply.

Before an Electricity Shortage:

Collect and store these items ahead of time in order to save valuable time and to be prepared.

- Assemble an emergency storm go-kit. Visit www.72hour.dc.gov to learn how.
- Flashlights and fresh batteries.
- NOAA battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Land line phone with cord (Cordless phones require electricity to operate).
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- Battery-powered or windup alarm clock.
- A supply of bottled water (one gallon per person per day).
- Non-perishable foods that require no heating.
- Blankets, bedding, or sleeping bags and a change of clothes.
- First Aid Kit and prescription medications.
- Hand-operated can opener.
- Special items for infants, the elderly or family members with special needs.
- Hand tools such as a hammer, screwdriver; scissors; duct tape; plastic garbage bags; paper and pencil; waterproof matches; household bleach.
- Identification and copies of important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Emergency Services and Pepco telephone numbers.

Protect Your Home and Belongings

- Turn off all appliances, including your furnace, air conditioner, water heater and water pump. That way, you can avoid a circuit overload and another outage that may result when power is restored to all appliances at once.
- Turn off lights, heater/air conditioner and other appliances when you leave your home
- Leave on one lamp so you'll know that the power has been restored.

During an Electricity Shortage:

- Use a flashlight--DO NOT use candles.
- DO NOT use a generator inside a home or garage.
- Listen to local radio or television for instructions from officials.

Protect Your Food

- Stock up on shelf-stable foods such as canned goods, juices, peanut butter, "power" bars, trail mixes and "no-freeze" entrees.
- Plan ahead how you can keep foods cold. Buy some freeze-pak inserts and keep them frozen. Buy a cooler. Freeze water in plastic jugs or containers or store bags of ice.
- Know in advance where you can buy dry and block ice.
- Develop emergency freezer-sharing plans with friends in another part of town or in a nearby area.
- Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed; open them only when absolutely necessary. Food will stay frozen for 36-48 hours in a fully loaded freezer if you keep the door closed.

After an Electricity Shortage:

When the power comes back on, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances, to help eliminate problems that could occur if there's a sharp increase in demand. If you think that electric power has been restored to your area but your home is still without power, call your local power company.

