

40. Power Outage

Power outages may occur from time to time as a result of rolling blackouts, weather or infrastructure related incidents. While inconvenient, most power outages are of short duration and do not interfere with service delivery. If the outage is prolonged, or if the health or safety of staff or individuals is at risk, then the necessary emergency and/or evacuation procedures should be followed.

Emergency supplies:

The emergency supplies in each home and program site should include items needed in the event of a power outage, including flashlights, battery-operated radios, bottled water, extra blankets, and a sufficient quantity of cold and canned foods to allow for cold meals if necessary.

Emergency drills:

A mock drill of the power outage procedure will be conducted at least once a year, and documented on the Emergency Drills Record. See Policy #34: Emergency Preparedness.

Power Outage procedure:

- (a) Check the building to ensure a breaker has not blown.
- (b) Shut off stoves and any other appliances or equipment that could pose a danger if unattended once power is restored.
- (c) If it is necessary to leave the site, make sure confidential files and documents are secured. Lock doors and windows.
- (d) If the power is out for more than 24 hours, the fridge must be emptied and all potential at risk food thrown away.
- (e) If the outage occurs during winter, extra care should be taken to keep people warm. If it is unsafe for them to remain at home, go to the nearest safe evacuation site where emergency social services will be available. Notify the supervisor as soon as possible as to your whereabouts.
- (f) If the outage occurs at the office, the Executive Director or designate will determine whether or not to close the office and/or suspend operations.
- (g) Work activities that result in a hit or damage to a pipeline, buried electrical cable or other such utility must be reported to the owner of the utility without delay.