

Important Information

Does your business have a power cut plan?

Prepare for a power cut by carrying out a **Business Resilience Assessment** to understand the specific needs of your business should your power go out.

The following steps should be reviewed alongside the Business Resilience Assessment.

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**



Safety

1. Make a list of equipment that need to be turned off during an outage and reset when power is restored.
2. If power goes off, switch off electric heaters and cookers to avoid fire risk when power is restored.
3. If installing back-up generation the installation must be carried out by an authorised person. Once installed, schedule regular testing of the generator and back-up fuel.
4. Contents will be safe for between 4-6 hours in the fridge and 15-24 hours in the freezer but dispose of food if it appears defrosted.
5. When using alternative forms of heating or lighting, use it safely and keep fire safety in mind.

Security

1. Back up computers regularly and consider keeping copies of key documents safe or offsite. Test and plan for any impact of power returning to technical equipment like computers.
2. Make sure fuel tanks or EV battery charge in vehicles are not left until completely empty, as petrol stations may be impacted during a power cut. Staff may be able to top up vehicles in areas not impacted by power cuts.
3. Consider the security arrangements on your premises and how electric doors, gates, locks and fire and intruder alarms may be affected by a power cut.
4. Check maintenance and battery back-up of any alarms on the premises, including contacting external system providers, if relevant, to make sure response lines are resilient to a power cut.

Welfare

1. Review any relevant risk assessment for your business regarding how a power cut could impact continued safe operations and welfare of staff on the premises.
2. Consider if staff can work from alternative locations in the event of a power cut, or if operating hours could be altered.
3. Check if there are sufficient torches to hand and that staff know where they can be accessed.
4. Think about how power cuts may affect people in your care, if applicable, in the event that a power cut could cause distress or alarm. Consider consulting external organisations or resources for additional support and/or preparation.
5. Consult the **ENA 'Be Winter Ready' pamphlet** for care homes and assisted-living residences. Help residents in assisted-living to **sign up for the Priority Services Register** to access free additional support in a power cut.

Communication

1. Stay informed during an unexpected power cut by using mobile phones or an alternative location and visit our website: **Power Cut in Your Area?** or **call 105**.
2. If impacted by national GB-wide power cuts, implemented by National Grid ESO only in an emergency, use **powercut105.com** for updates.
3. Prepare for how to communicate with staff in the event of a power cut to ensure they know what is happening.
4. Consider how to contact customers, if applicable, to let them know how the business has been impacted by power cuts.
5. Check in and set up agreements and procedures with suppliers, vendors and other essential partners for what to do in a power cut.

You can make sure your contact details with SP Energy Network are up-to-date **here**.

You can view this leaflet in Welsh **here**.