

**System Loss or Failure
Building Electricity
(Code Grey)**

Section

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POLICY

A plan shall be in place in the event of electrical power failure in the facility.

Procedure

- **The supervisory staff on duty** shall call the utility company and inquire how long the power may be off. If short term, less than 15 minutes, staff shall wait it out and monitor the exit doors for residents.
- **If the power failure is expected to be longer than 15 minutes** the Maintenance manager or designate shall be contacted if not already on site, to start the back-up electrical generator.
- **Upon disruption of electrical power to the building the emergency lighting** at all exits and corridors automatically turn on as per building and fire code requirements. These lights are maintained to only last a maximum 30 minutes.
- **Supervisory staff shall** be aware during the initial power failure prior to starting the generator that all normally magnetically locked doors will be disabled and must be monitored for exit seeking residents. Therefore Supervisory staff shall assign staff to monitor each door.
- **All staff shall be aware** that doors utilizing magnetic holders will also be inactive during a power failure and will close. Therefore caution must be taken to ensure residents do not get injured during their closing.
- **Delegate staff to distribute flash lights** -Maintenance Manager shall be responsible for maintaining a practical number of emergency flashlights available in both nursing stations for staff use during a power failure.
- **Once the generator is started** and emergency power is provided at key locations only, the first system to be turned on shall be the door lock security system which are turned on via switch located at both nursing stations and basement hallway beside the west boiler room door. Switches are labeled clearly ' Mag locks'
- **See 'Fire Plan' manual located at each nursing station and front door for generator start up** procedure. Only trained staff shall be allowed to start the generator for safety reasons.
- **All medications and vaccines must be removed from their designated fridges in the drug and nursing supply rooms.** The medications can be placed on a tray and put in the kitchen walk in cooler which is connected to the generator. Vaccines should be placed in the empty insulated bag (in nursing supply room) and placed in the back of the walk in cooler. The vaccine thermometer probe should be put in the back with the vaccines and the temperature monitored every 12 hours.

- **Generator powered receptacles** ; there are strategically placed electrical outlets throughout the facility which are connected to normal utility power and also the back-up electrical generator. These outlets are red in color and labeled generator. Locations are as follows;
 - First and second floor main dining rooms
 - Main kitchen
 - Room 218 palliative room
- **Staff cell phones** are a valuable source of communication for staff to contact the local utilities for information on power outages as well as contacting the management team for assistance. Emergency call list are maintained in the second floor medication room for the Supervisory staff. In the event of power failure prior to the generator being started, the building's phone system will be inoperative.
- **If the power failure has been determined to be longer than 6 hours** ; the Ministry of Health Long Term Care Provincial Operations Center (POC) must be contacted, they may provide assistance and or direction on mitigating the negative impact on services to our residents.

IN THE EVENT OF A PROLONGED DISRUPTION OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE

- **Replace air mattresses** being used by residents with regular mattresses from the storage room in the basement however this is only required if the air mattress is the type that totally deflates when power is lost. The newer generation air mattresses do not totally deflate during power loss and will not need to be replaced during this event.
- **Back electrical power is supplied to one heating boiler for hot water and space heating for half the facility.** In the event of prolonged power failure during the cold season it may be necessary to move all resident into the west wing of the building on any floor to keep warm. In the event of prolonged power failure during the heating season, electrical fans can be utilized in common areas with access to outlets powered by the generator. Please see 'Prevention/ Management of hot weather related illness in the event of a breakdown of air conditioning system'
- **Patient lift equipment** will require battery charging which may be done through the red generator outlets located at main dining rooms.
- **Fuel for generator shall be** maintained and purchased by management as required. An ample supply of generator gasoline is kept in the outdoor yard shed by the service entrance. During prolonged power failures the Maintenance Manager or designate shall purchase fuel to maintain adequate supply to run the generator.
- **Flashlights** shall be provided to all staff during prolonged power failures especially if it runs into evening or night time since there will be no lighting available in resident rooms or washrooms. A practical supply of flashlight shall be maintained in both nursing stations as well for extreme emergencies in the maintenance workshop.
- **Cooking appliances** during prolonged power failure may still be utilized since it they operate on natural gas however it will be necessary to open the kitchen windows during its use to allow fresh air into the room for safe use of the appliance.
- **Please refer to "what the generator supplies power to"** located in our Fire Plan manual located at each nursing station. This will inform staff what is available during prolonged power failures.

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