

# School Crisis Planning: The Parent Factor

## POWER OUTAGE

### WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING

Many schools have policies in place in case of a power outage. Most schools have back up generators that may provide power in case of a power outage. *Below are tips you can use to be prepared for a power outage at home.*

### WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

Sudden power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a long time. If a power outage is 2 hours or less, you need not be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages though, there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and to keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

#### Prepare a Kit

Put together an emergency preparedness kit with these supplies in case of a prolonged or widespread power outage.

#### Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit Containing:

- Water - one gallon per person per day
- Food - nonperishable, easy to prepare items
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Battery powered or hand crank radio
- First aid kit
- Medication and medical items
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cell phones with auto charging cords
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash

#### Prepare Your Home

##### Electrical Equipment

- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment.
- Turn off or disconnect any appliances or equipment you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.

Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on.

#### Keep Food as Safe as Possible

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours.
- A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
- If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.
- Keep food in a dry, cool spot and keep it covered at all times.
- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 F for 2 hours or more. When in doubt throw it out.
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40 F and has ice crystals, you can refreeze it.

#### Using Generators Safely

- When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system.
- If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional.
- Never use a generator, grill, or other gas, propane, natural gas or charcoal burning devices inside a home, garage, basement or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

#### Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

FEMA: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Do 1 Thing: [www.do1thing.org](http://www.do1thing.org)