



Power Failures

Power failures can be unpredictable and of long duration. Departments need to be prepared for these situations and need to have discussed preparations before you first notice that you are in the dark. Even if you are in a building with emergency generators, you should prepare to go without.

This information has broad application to all OHSU buildings and operations, however each area may be slightly different.

The following is a list of considerations that must be made in preparation for or during a power interruption or outage:

- Have a flashlight with fresh batteries available. Task one employee with routine maintenance of this, and other flashlights in the area.
- Report power outages to Public Safety by calling 503-494-7744. Give them specific building and area information.
- Check in with your supervisor as soon as practical. There may be specific tasks that need to be performed in your area.
- Turn off all non-essential electrical equipment to minimize the load on circuits when they are re-energized.
- If you go outside at night, areas of OHSU may be dark and unsafe for lone passage. You can always call Public Safety for an escort.
- Be careful when navigating dark areas! (This precautionary message was brought to you by your toes, shins, and knees!)
- Remember that cordless phones will not work when the power goes out. Use corded units or cellular phones to make calls.
- Avoid opening refrigerators, freezers, and warming appliances until power is restored to prevent temperature changes within.
- Make certain that you have turned off or unplugged power tools so they won't re-start when power is restored.
- Know where your closest exit is in case you need to leave the building.
- Patient care areas? Check to ensure that essential electrical equipment is plugged into red, emergency power outlets.
- Reassure patients and visitors that they are safe by letting them know what has occurred. Tell them they will be given specific instructions, as necessary.

**If you have any questions about power failures or preparedness,
contact Facilities Management at 503 494-7531,
or Environmental Health and Radiation Safety at 503 494-7795.**

