

Emergency Preparedness – Cottage Electricity-1

CRITICAL NOTICE

Are you, or is someone you know, dependent on electricity for life support (e.g. basic oxygen supply)? If so, contact Resident Services x7360 or Security x7910 to make sure that you are on the list for a check-up by Security if a protracted power outage is expected. See also Cottage Electricity-2 for more information.

Summary

- This document recommends preparations by cottage residents for power outages lasting for a few days or less. Cottage Electricity-2 addresses longer outages.
- Immediate priorities are illumination, communication, and transportation. Communication includes both news about local conditions and two-way communication
- Protracted power outages will also shut down cooking, heating, cooling, the use of plug-in appliances

How and What?

We start with recommendations for the most basic immediate needs and progress to needs for more extended outages.

Illumination:

- At least one emergency (plug-in) light. These can be ordered on the Emergency Preparedness page of MyRVM.
- Two flashlights or headlamps per person, one in the go-bag and the other conveniently accessible in the house. If you have a car, keep one there as well, Compact LED models are suggested.
- Spare batteries: Use only quality name-brand alkaline batteries or lithium-ion batteries. The latter are more expensive, but have longer lives and do not deteriorate due to temperature extremes. Use lithium batteries for equipment stored in the car or where batteries are not regularly replaced.

Note: you may need to use two hands in an emergency, so headlamps or flashlights with wrist lanyards are desirable.

Communication: Power outages will shut down Channel 900/901, and on-campus internet. Residents should assume that landline telephone service will be disrupted.

To keep a cell phone and/or tablet charged, and to obtain news from external sources:

- Portable charger power banks are battery units that can charge a cell phone 4-7 times (depending on model). Some have small solar screens with a very slow recharge rate. There are also units with folding external solar panels and a faster charging rate. These can be used with other USB-equipped items such as hearing aid chargers.
- Emergency radios come in various sizes. In addition to AM/FM/Weather bands, the larger ones accept external batteries as well as having internal rechargeable batteries, a hand-crank generator, and a solar panel. Caution – it takes a lot of sunlight or cranking to generate a charge.
- You car's power outlet can provide some charging capacity, but be careful not to run down the car battery – you might need to drive somewhere or use the climate control.

Transportation:

- Cottage garage door openers will not function without power. Make sure you are able to open your garage door manually, and arrange for reliable assistance if you can't.
- Manor express may or may not operate during a power outage; use a cell phone to call 541-857-7433, and expect service disruptions.
- Make neighborhood ride-share arrangements; in an emergency, parking in the tower lots may be restricted.

Household adaptations: most refrigerated or frozen food will generally remain safely edible for two days or more after loss of electricity. For refrigerated medicines, keep a small cooler and enough frozen "blue ice" in the freezer to fill it.

Additional information can be obtained from Cottage Elec-2:

- Health and comfort support without electricity – temperature control, cooking, supportive medical equipment.
- RVM resources for power-out support of residents.
- Consideration of alternatives for household power.

See Tower Electricity-1 and -2 for information on power outages in the high-rise buildings.

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