

UTILITY FAILURE DISASTER

Background:

A utility failure is a situation where commodities such as electricity, water or gas service are interrupted.

UTILITY FAILURE:

- Keep a battery-powered radio and flashlight; have an extra supply of fresh batteries.
- Store essential supplies, such as, flashlights, batteries, a portable radio, water, non-perishable foods, blankets and a manual can-opener.
- DO NOT use charcoal indoors! Without proper ventilation, fumes from burnt charcoal can cause a deadly situation.
- During summer months, if the air conditioner is not functioning, stay cool by keeping out of direct sunlight and moving to the lowest floor of the building.
- During power outages, use food supplies wisely. Use refrigerated foods first, frozen foods second and non-perishable foods last.
- Perishable items from the refrigerator can be kept cool for about 4 hours if the refrigerator is left closed.
- Learn how to safely and properly switch on/off gas valves, water lines, circuit breakers, once utilities have been restored.



District of Columbia Government
Produced by:
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency(HSEMA)

Last Modified: November, 2011

