

*These scenarios are designed to stimulate conversations within organisations and networks of what may need to be considered in a variety of different emergency situations. Please feel welcome to use these scenarios in staff meetings or emergency planning workshops to increase awareness of organisational procedures and potentially identify gaps in planning.*

*For further information and advice please contact your local emergency planning committee through your council or local emergency services.*

## **Practice Scenario: Area-wide Black out**

Wednesday. Forecast 32, North Westerly winds 15km p/h.

**10:15am:** Wednesday: Normal day at your organisation until suddenly the power goes out.

**10:20am:** After checking the fuses and surrounding organisations, it becomes clear that the power outage has impacted everyone and is not just localised to your building(s).

**10:35am:** A staff member has seen on social media that the local substation is on fire

**10:50am:** Still no power. You have tuned into ABC Local radio from your car/ battery operated radio and have heard that a small fire is being attended to at the substation and all on your grid are in blackout.

**11:30am:** Update on local radio, the fire has been contained but has caused significant damage to the substation. Power is not expected to be restored for the next 12 hours whilst repairs are completed.

**2:00pm:** Update on local radio, the damages more extensive than first thought. The power is now not expected back on for 24-36 hours.

Thursday. Forecast 34, North Westerly winds 0-5km p/h

**8:00am Thursday:** There is still no power. Some of your staff have contacted you asking whether to come to work. Other staff have not been able to be contacted due to flat mobile phones and no landlines. What is your business continuity plan? What services can you deliver?

**3:45pm:** Power has come back on. Clients/ community members are frustrated and it is suspected that many will have lost the majority of their perishable food items.

### **In the case of a power outage, remember that:**

- SAPOL will be directing traffic on top of their regular duties
- Many petrol stations will be unable to pump petrol- do you have enough fuel in your car/ for your generator?
- Many of us don't carry cash anymore- how will you cope without eftpos when there's no power?
- Generators need to be serviced regularly to ensure that they work when needed
- Automatic doors cannot be opened or closed without power

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- Many assisted lifts, adjustable beds and chairs are powered by electricity, be mindful of staff moving clients safely.
- Also consider in home medical equipment and transport such as motorised wheel chairs, oxygen or dialysis machines. All need access to a power source.
- Vaccines and some medications require refrigeration and will need to be thrown away if not kept below a certain temperature.



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