

**CHECKLIST #19****POWER SERVICE DISRUPTION CHECKLIST**

Power Service Disruption could be the result of a weather event, an accident or a terrorist attack. There are some physical measures a business can take to be prepared for Power Service Disruptions. (i.e., surge protectors or backup generation for critical equipment). As in the case of any other emergency, the business needs to address liabilities, risks and response activities in advance. An emergency plan can include some of the following measures.

**Facility**

- If your lights fail, first try checking your breakers or fuses. Re-setting the breakers or putting in new fuses may bring your lights back on. To reset a breaker, turn it to the OFF position, press firmly off, then push to the ON position. If re-setting the breaker or replacing the fuses doesn't help, call your local electric utility.
- Post phone number for local electric utility at appropriate locations.
- If using back-up generation, what are your procedures to avoid a backfeed?

**Medical Emergency**

In the case of a medical emergency during a power outage, employees should seek immediate care at the nearest appropriate health care facility. Note that some telephones require electricity and may not be in service during an outage. Businesses are encouraged to have a back-up communication plan in case of such an event. When requesting emergency assistance, location finding devices such as GPS can be very useful during an event that changes the landscape.

**Facility Protection and Security**

- Even if people do not know whether radioactive materials were present, following these simple steps can help reduce their injury from other chemicals that might have been present in the blast.
- Determine your threat level and communicate to employees.
- Employers are encouraged to develop a business security plan. Included in this plan should be security processes dealing with power outages/disruptions. Need for security guards because your alarm system is not functioning?
- Be on the alert for fires and call authorities if smoke or fire is spotted.
- What to do if you have another emergency during the outage (e.g., material spill).
- What to do if water enters your facility. What equipment could you use when the lights come back on?
- Procedure for re-entering the building.
- Employee Field Work.
- Inform personnel that any fallen wire is potentially hazardous. (See Stay Safe this Storm Season pamphlet.)
- Inform personnel how to deal with a fallen power line on their car.

**Communications**

- Inform the employees how they will be communicating with their immediate supervisor or employer if they are in the field during a large scale power outage.
- Publish a telephone number to be used by employees to call their supervisor and be prepared to provide reporting instructions.
- Make appropriate communication to your customers.