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When the power goes out

Power outages can disrupt operations, decrease revenue, and cause safety and health problems. Short-term and long-term preparation can help minimize the effects.

These tips can help you prepare and deal with power outages.

Prepare short-term

- Do assessments for potential hazards. Basic safety measures like making sure the area is clear of items that people can trip over will make a big difference.
- Check emergency lighting to make sure it's in good working order.
- Know where flashlights, emergency kits, and other safety items are kept.
- Keep emergency phone numbers at hand.
- Know the emergency plan for exiting the building.

During the outage

- Turn off and disconnect equipment, programs, and systems.
- Don't stand next to machinery that could come back on unexpectedly.
- Stop as soon as lights go out if using potentially dangerous equipment like a forklift.
- Follow protocols for fires, earthquakes, and other emergencies to help employees and customers exit the building safely.

Long-term planning

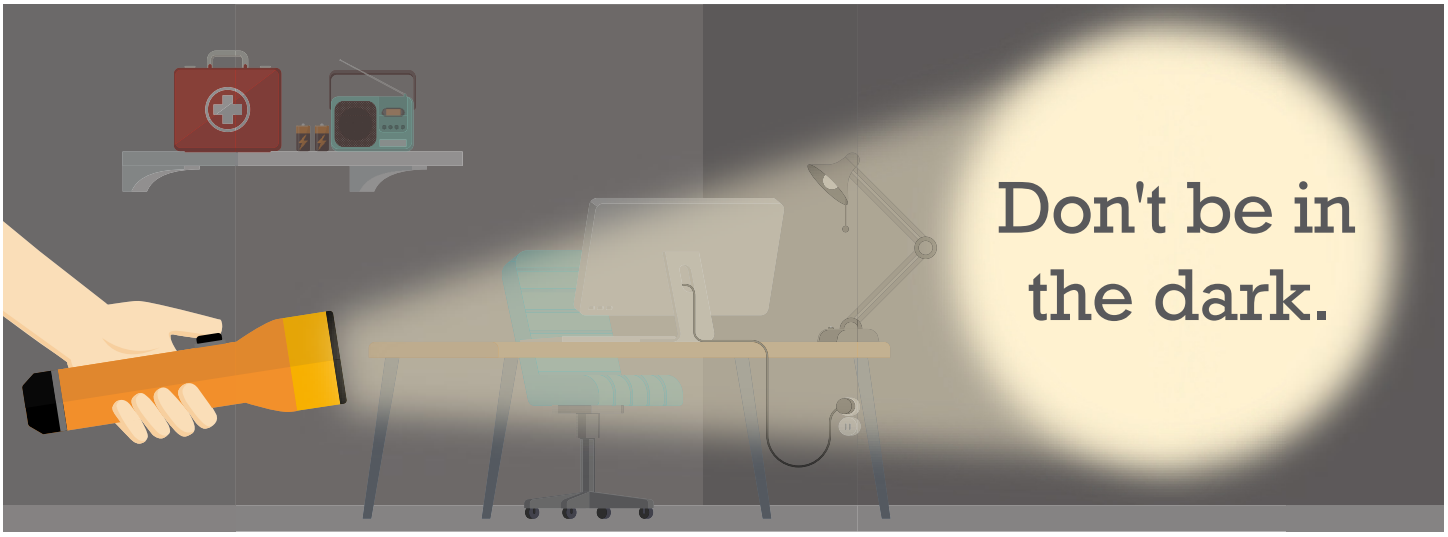
- Develop a business continuity plan.
- Ensure everyone knows about the plan and is trained in it.
- Identify critical operations that need power, such as computer systems and machinery, and take steps to protect them.
- Set up contingency plans, such as surge protectors, alternate locations for data and operations, and back-up programs and systems.

Resources

Plan for emergencies | SAIF
saif.com/emergencies

Prepare your business for power outages | PGE
bit.ly/4szNs2W

Business Continuity Plan | Ready.gov
bit.ly/4rlkiUk



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