

Teacher's Guide June: Power Outage

**READY
NEW YORK**



Lights Out!

From the time we get up in the morning to the time we flip off the lights at night, we rely on electricity. But when the power goes out, it's not only a nuisance; it can also be a life-threatening emergency. Power outages occur mainly in the summer months when residents depend on air conditioners and power usage is at its peak.

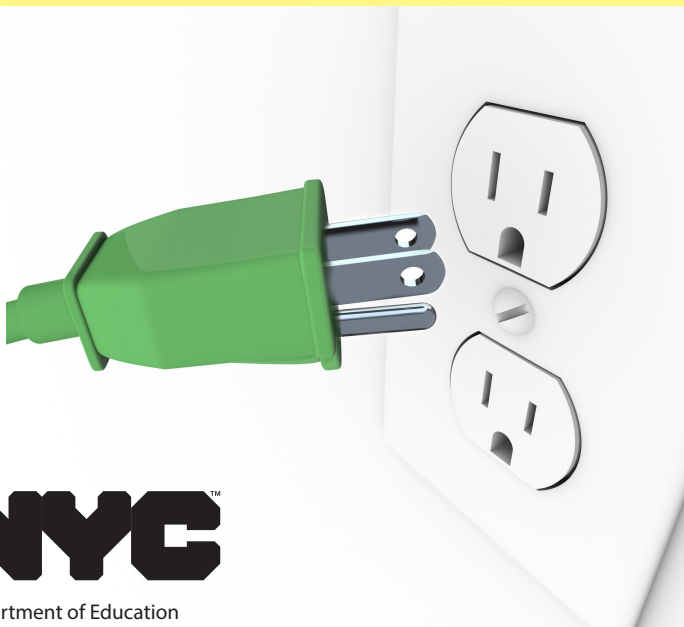
Emergency Eats

- Designate a section of your cupboard for foods that don't require cooking. Rotate your supply every six months.
- If you're trying to use up food during an extended power outage, keep food in the driest and coolest place in your house. Close containers tightly or wrap items in plastic bags.
- Keep disposable plates, silverware, cups, and napkins on hand as well, along with a manual can opener.

Let's all get ready and stay safe if the power goes out this summer!

Did you know?

If you have a landline, keep an old-fashioned corded phone on hand. It's likely to still work even when the power is out.



NYC

Department of Education
Emergency Management

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Power out? What do I do?

- If the power goes out at school, keep students calm and still. Wait for announcements and instructions on whether power will be restored shortly or whether your school will be evacuated.
- If the power goes out at home, check to make sure a fuse has not blown or a circuit breaker has not been tripped. If not, call your power provider to report the outage.
- Unplug all appliances that may turn back on when the power is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator closed as much as possible. If the power is expected to be out two hours or less, don't be concerned about losing your perishable foods. If the power is expected to be out more than two hours, move perishable foods into the freezer section.
- Stay indoors. If you need to go outside, stay away from downed power lines.

Reinforce the message of what to do during a power outage and build skills across the curriculum with these simple activities:



Language Arts

Brainstorm a list of activities students can do if the power goes out and electrical entertainment is unavailable. Include reading by the window, writing, drawing, playing board games, telling stories, and so forth. For extra credit, challenge students to have a “blackout night” at home and do only activities that don’t require electricity.



Social Studies

Have students write letters to local newspapers explaining the importance of conserving electricity during peak usage periods. Discuss how small sacrifices can significantly benefit the population at large.

1/2 Math

Ask the students to imagine that a power outage caused by a severe thunderstorm has left each of their families with a refrigerator full of groceries. The power will be out for two days. For homework, ask each child to examine his or her refrigerator at home, create a list of food items that could be lost, and estimate the value of the food. Provide grocery store circulars for students to check prices on different items.



Science

When power usage is high, such as during hot summer months, one way to decrease the odds of a power outage is by conserving energy. Challenge students to brainstorm ways to conserve power both at home and at school during peak times. Keep the list handy and ready to put into action if utilities call for conservation!

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