

Be Prepared! Power or Water Disruptions in Long-Term Care Homes

Preparing for a water or power disruption before it happens is the best way to ensure that you can continue to provide safe and appropriate care for the residents of your home. The following are some things to consider when you are planning for emergency situations.

Power Disruption

- If possible, have a back-up generator
- Develop a plan to minimize loss of food products held frozen or under refrigeration
 - * Consider access to an electrical generator that can be used to operate critical pieces of equipment such as refrigeration units, or
 - * Plan to obtain a refrigerated truck that can be delivered to your facility. Develop a business relationship with a supplier to ensure prompt delivery of the truck when needed, or
 - * Plan to obtain a supply of ice. Develop a business relationship with a supplier of ice to ensure ice can be provided promptly when needed.
- Prepare an emergency menu that includes recipes for food items that require little or no cooking since kitchen exhaust systems will not be functional.
- Plan for an alternate supply of food for your facility if you are unable to continue with food preparation. Alternate supplies may include canned food, dry food, or food brought in from another approved source.
- Plan for maintaining the Cold Chain for your onsite vaccines.
- Plan for continued operation of medical devices that use electricity.

Water Disruption

- Plan an emergency menu with food items that need little or no water to prepare.
- Stock an inventory of single-use items including plates, bowls, cups and utensils, a supply of bottled water, containers suitable for hauling water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Develop a business relationship with a bottled water supplier and/or a licensed water hauler to provide the facility with water during an emergency.
- Plan for loss of toilet use for both residents and staff.
- Create a list of equipment that uses water, and develop a plan of what will happen with each during a water disruption.

Communication

- Have a battery-powered radio available for media updates of situation;
- In Lanark County the designated emergency radio station is Lake 88 -88.1
- In Leeds/Grenville the designated stations are: CFJR 104.9 and BOB 103.7
- Have a list of emergency contact numbers available.

Reference: Modified with permission from the London Middlesex Health Unit