

Lights out

Limiting the impacts 1

A power cut takes us back to the time before electricity infiltrated nearly all aspects of our lives. By going back to the old fashioned way of doing things we can address some of the basic challenges, but wide reliance on mobile phones and social media for keeping in contact prove more difficult.

Impacts	Preparations
At home	
The immediate effects on households are loss of lighting, heating and electrical appliances. Even gas fired central heating systems and cookers typically include electrical components.	
Lighting	Torch and batteries, better still wind-up and solar powered torches. Candles and matches are useful but must be used with care.
Keeping warm	Wear extra layers of clothes. Paraffin heaters should be used with caution.
Cooking	Camping stoves / calor gas burners (don't forget to keep the canister topped up).
Refrigerated and frozen food	Eat food from the fridge and freezer whilst it remains good and remember that food that has been defrosted must not be refrozen.
Communications and data	
All of the usual sources of information might be affected – TVs and radios, internet, mobile phones and social media.	
Phones	Keep a spare analogue phone - digital or cordless ones won't work without power. Have car chargers for mobile phones.
Computers	Protect sensitive electrical equipment (e.g. computers) with a surge protector plug. Make sure any work and important records on your computer are backed-up and saved regularly.
News	Keep a wind-up/battery/solar powered radio ready so you can listen to local radio updates. Have your power company's number stored or phone 105 for information and updates.