

Loss of gas or electricity

Risk overview





Risk

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Risk Lead	LRF Critical Infrastructure & Essential Service Group
Risk Descriptor	<p>The gas and electricity companies would be responsible for the practical and operational management of the incident. These companies have well established plans and procedures in place to respond to incidents, which can range from the management of a local incident to a national level disruption</p> <p>Many parts of the infrastructure network are dependent on one another e.g. electricity is required at water pumping stations, to ignite domestic gas and oil boilers.</p> <p>Electricity failure can occur at a local level, across an entire region, or at a national level. The impacts of electricity failure events will vary with scale. Instances of electricity failure (also referred to as power loss or blackout) can have a number of causes including severe weather, infrastructure failure, and/or imbalance of supply and demand.</p> <p>Rural areas are often the last to be reconnected when there is a disruption to utilities such as gas, water and electricity. During a wide scale incident people who live in the more rural areas of Lincolnshire may be affected for longer than those in the larger towns.</p>
How Prepared Are You?	
How to prepare for the risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you have access to a phone, such as a charged mobile phone or land line that doesn't rely on electricity to operate, and device chargers. • Have an emergency kit already packed. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a battery-powered radio ○ torches or battery-operated lights ○ batteries ○ copies of insurance and other important papers ○ bottled water ○ some tinned food ○ first aid kit. • Ensure that any medication is accessible. • Your radio should be portable and battery-operated.

<p>How to respond to the risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you experience a power cut, you can call '105' to report it and get further information. • Use a battery, wind-up or car radio to listen to BBC Lincolnshire, BBC Radio 2 (FM 88-91) or Radio 4 (FM 92-95) for updates. • Keep doors and windows closed, including internal doors. This is to try to trap the heat in one or two rooms • Block draughts by fitting draught excluders, or rolling a towel and wedging it under your door • Dress warmly, layering up with cotton, wool or fleece. If it's really chilly indoors you might benefit from outdoor clothes too, such as a coat, hat and scarf • Keep one light switch turned on so you know when the power returns. • If you have neither gas or electricity, cook foods outside on a barbecue. Never use a barbeque inside a home, tent or caravan. • Use foods that don't require cooking, such as salad vegetables, tinned meats, breads and breakfast cereals.
<p>How to recover from the risk</p>	<p>Do not refreeze any defrosted food this can cause food poisoning</p>

How prepared is your family?

Make sure each member of the household knows to turn off electrical appliances and unplug sensitive equipment when there is a blackout.

Priority Services Register

For those that require extra support during a power cut, you may be eligible to be added to your energy supplier or network operator's Priority Service Register. [Ofgem state](#) that you are eligible if you:

- have reached your state pension age
- are disabled or have a long-term medical condition
- are recovering from an injury
- have a hearing or sight condition
- have a mental health condition
- are pregnant or have young children
- have extra communication needs (such as if you don't speak or read English well)
- need to use medical equipment that requires a power supply
- have poor or no sense of smell
- would struggle to answer the door or get help in an emergency
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You can also join the Priority Services register on a temporary basis if you have recently experienced a life-changing event, returned from hospital, or living independently for the first time.

For further information and to register for the Priorities Service Register, please contact your energy supplier or network operator. If you're unsure who your suppliers are, you can search to find your [network operator](#) and [gas supplier](#).

What can you do to support your Community?	<p>Check on your neighbours to see if they need assistance, particularly if they are elderly or have a disability.</p>
How Prepared is your business?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you have suitable business insurance, the Association of British Insurers provides useful advice and information. • Complete a free Business Resilience Health Check to receive a report outlining the actions that you should address to give you a good starting point to develop a practical and coherent business continuity plan (This can take up to 1.5 hours to complete). • Check how prepared your business is using the Government's Business Continuity Management Toolkit (569 KB) • Consider communicating with local businesses about your plans and how you could support each other.
What are the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum doing to prepare for this risk?	<p>The LRF work together to plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work involving the utility companies to manage supply interruptions; • Production of multi-agency plans to manage long- term utilities outages; <p>Identification of vulnerable people who may need support in the event of a utilities outage.</p>

For further information please see the LRF website: www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org