

GENERAL ORDER



Title	Electrical Power Crisis	
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

A power crisis can disable an organization unless proper contingency plans are in place when a crisis occurs. Recent power outages in major cities across the nation left several citizens in the dark, crippling transportation networks and trapping tens of thousands of people in subways, elevators, and trains. The 1996 blackout on the West Coast affected 4 million and the 1977 New York City blackout affected 9 million. It is essential that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) be prepared to maximize resources and capabilities, to ensure that critical tasks are undertaken efficiently and effectively when a power crisis exists.

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is to work closely with area agencies within the District of Columbia, along with the Synchronized Operations Command Complex (SOCC) and Facilities Management, to ensure that in the event of an electrical power crisis, MPD facilities have the ability to function properly without hardship. It is further the responsibility of these agencies to ensure that proper contingency plans are in place to ensure the comfort and safety of the citizens who reside and work in the District of Columbia.

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- A. Upon notification of a potential or actual power crisis at an MPD Facility, the Synchronized Operations Command Complex (SOCC) shall alert the Chief of Police, or his/her designee and report actions taken at the facility:

The official in charge of the MPD facility with the outage shall:
(CALEA 46.1.1)

1. Check the MPD facility for emergency lighting and determine if it is safe to operate and conduct business. Make a determination if personnel should be moved to a temporary work site.

2. Inspect and test all communication systems (e.g. telephones, computers, etc.) and verify that all systems are operational.

Note: Have the SOCC notify the Office of the Chief Information Officer if the telecommunications system is not operational.

3. Contact Facilities Management of MPD and the Office of Property Management, who control facilities equipped with centrally operated systems, such as the Henry J. Daly Building, district station houses and other occupied buildings.

B. If a complete power outage occurs in a Department occupied building (owned or leased space), the official in charge of the building shall: (CALEA 46.1.1)

1. Immediately notify the SOCC;
2. Maintain a communication channel between the troubled building and the SOCC;
3. Prepare an alternate means of communication in the event of total telecommunication failure. Department radios shall be utilized to transmit critical information;
4. Inspect the building to determine if the outage is an isolated incident or if the entire building is affected;
5. Verify that the emergency lighting is working and the emergency generator is activated, along with the telephone, Local Area Network (LAN) system;
6. Notify Facilities Management of the outage and provide a continuous update until power is restored; and
7. Ensure the safety of all MPD personnel.

C. City Wide Power Outage

1. Prepare to retain MPD employees on duty, or call to duty, those members needed to preserve order, prevent crime and assist with traffic flow in the District for a prolonged electrical outage; and
2. Ensure that members are provided for security to the district stations houses and other prominent residential and/or business establishments.

D. The Commander, Special Operations Division shall implement his/her emergency plan and deploy additional manpower to street intersections where traffic control devices become inoperative, in accordance with General Order 803.5 (Emergency Traffic Posts). (CALEA 46.1.1)

- E. District Commanders shall:
1. Pay special attention to those areas containing financial institutions and establishments displaying valuable merchandise or firearms. It can be assumed that security alarm devices may be inoperative during a general power failure in the area;
 2. Ensure that officials assign members to maintain security at the district stations and other prominent residential and/or business establishments;
 3. Establish procedures for the recall of employees in his/her command. See; General Order 803.1 (Emergency Notification of Personnel to Return to Duty), General Order 202.1 (Designation and Notification of Essential Civilian Employees);
 4. Call to duty the Police Reserve Corps to assist during the crisis. See; General Order 101.3 (Organization, Authority and Rules of the MPD Reserve Corps); and
 5. If appropriate, ensure that emergency traffic posts are assigned to members. See; General Order 803.5 (Emergency Traffic Posts).

IV. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. General Order 803.1 (Emergency Notification of Personnel to Return to Duty)
- B. General Order 202.1 (Designation and Notification of Essential Civilian Employees)
- C. General Order 101.3 (Organization, Authority and Rules of the MPD Reserve Corps)
- D. GO-PER-803.04 (Emergency Response Plan)
- E. General Order 803.5 (Emergency Traffic Posts)

// SIGNED //
Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police