

Power Outages

For information about outages, visit the UW Safety Portal at www.washington.edu/safety, tune to KOMO 1000 AM, or call UW 206-547-INFO. If conditions seem dangerous, evacuate the area and assist others to evacuate. Do not re-enter a building until authorities have determined it safe to do so.

Emergency Lighting

- Many buildings are equipped with emergency lighting systems that provide **minimal light for exiting**, not routine work. **Evacuate buildings** while these systems are still operating.
- Emergency **pathway lighting** is only designed to last about **90 minutes**.
- Some buildings at UW Seattle may have emergency lighting for up to **eight hours** but **many have no emergency power at all**.

General Procedures for Academic Buildings

- **Assess** the extent of the outage in your area.
- **Remain calm**; provide assistance to others if necessary. Help co-workers in darkened work areas move to safe and lighted locations.
- **Exits** may be indicated by lighted signs if the emergency power is operating.
- **Report** the outage to Facilities Services. On the UW Seattle campus, call **206-685-1411**.
- **Open blinds** for additional light.
- **Open windows** for improved ventilation, if needed.
- If possible, **shut off power** to machinery and equipment that could restart unattended.
- **Don't use candles**, lanterns, charcoal, grills, or anything that uses fuel in buildings.
- Don't bring **emergency generators** indoors or near building doors or windows.
- If **trapped in an elevator** use the elevator car phone to contact UWPD.
- **Evacuate** if power is anticipated to be out for an extended period of time and work conditions are not safe or exit pathways are not lighted.

Procedures for Laboratories, Shops, or other Hazardous Locations.

- **Shut down** and preserve important work.
- Promptly **evacuate** areas with hazardous materials and equipment.
- Close sashes on **fume hoods** and **biological safety cabinets**.
- If possible, cap any **open containers** of hazardous materials.
- **Secure** any hazardous materials in transport.
- **Keep refrigerators and freezers closed** throughout the outage. If necessary, implement backup procedures such as obtaining dry ice for refrigerators.
- **When power is restored, assess** your area for potentially hazardous situations, such as devices left "on." Also do this if power is restored when the facility would normally not be occupied.
- **Review the UW [Lab Safety Manual](#), Section 9**, for additional information.

Procedures for Residential Buildings

- Follow procedures above but confer with Housing about building evacuation.