UTILITY FAILURE – POWER OUTAGE

Gas:
1. If you smell gas, and if personal safety allows, turn off the source and evacuate the immediate area.
2. The human nose is extremely sensitive to the odorant placed into natural gas and so it is detectable far below any fire/explosion levels. Therefore, for low-level smells, immediately contact Security at (805) 730-4200 or 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone).
3. If gas odor is strong, evacuate the building using fire alarm pull station and call 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone). Evacuate to your building Emergency Assembly Point.
4. Do not turn on/off any electrical equipment or light switches.

Electrical Outage:
1. Unplug sensitive equipment if not connected to a surge protector.
2. Disconnect hazardous equipment according to your local plan.
3. Check elevators for trapped individuals and call Security at (805) 730-4200.
4. Stay away from downed power lines.
5. Emergency exit lighting may only stay on for a short time.
6. During an extended power outage, you may have to leave the building and go to your building Emergency Assembly Point.
7. In order to maximize the emergency generator run time and efficiency, please turn off power to non-essential areas (departmental kitchen, copier room, etc.) and equipment (typewriter, coffee machines, etc.).

Plumbing/Flooding:
1. If personal safety allows, shut off electrical equipment and evacuate area. Do not enter area where live electrical circuits are in contact with water.
2. Do not drink water from any campus system after an earthquake or a flood.
3. Report plumbing breaks to Facilities and Operations at (805) 965-0581 x2296 or after business hours to Security at (805) 730-4200.

Heating and Ventilation:
Report air conditioning or heating problems to Facilities and Operations at (805) 965-0581 x2296 or after business hours to Security at (805) 730-4200.

Prepare for a Power Outage:
1. Be sure the contact information on your lab door placard is up-to-date. Ideally, contacts should be knowledgeable about all of the lab’s sensitive operations.
2. Put essential equipment on emergency power circuits if available.
3. Hazardous processes that operate unattended should be programmed to shut down safely during a power failure and not restart automatically when power returns.
4. Identify an emergency source of dry ice for items that must be kept cold. Do not use dry ice in small enclosed and occupied areas because hazardous concentrations of CO2 can accumulate. Unopened refrigerators/freezers will maintain temperature for several hours.

During Power Outage:
1. Shut down experiments that involve hazardous materials or equipment that automatically restart when power is available.
2. Make sure that experiments are stable. Cap all chemical containers that are safe to cap, and then close fume hood sashes.
3. Check equipment on emergency power. In some cases, it may take 20 to 30 seconds for the emergency power to activate after a power failure.
4. Disconnect unattended equipment and turn off unnecessary equipment.
5. When power returns, reset/restart/check equipment. Check the airflow of your fume hood. Often, hoods will not automatically restart.