

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

---

**BULLETIN NO. 61**

**AUGUST 2006 (Reissued)**

---

Bulletin No. 61 is a reissue of Old Bulletin No. 7 issued October 1975.

**POWER EMERGENCY PLAN**

**Section 1. Purpose**

This plan prescribes the procedures to be followed by the Fire & EMS Department when advised of a power deficiency or a power outage so that fire protection services will be maintained during such an emergency. It shall be known as the Fire & EMS Department Power Emergency Plan. This Plan will provide for all fire companies to maintain communications with the Office of Unified Communications and thereby respond to all fire emergencies during any type of power emergency.

**Section 2. Authority**

Commissioner's Administrative instructions dated June 21, 1971, charges the Fire & EMS Department with the responsibility to provide fire protection services to the maximum feasible extent during a power emergency.

**Section 3. Introduction**

Upon receipt of notice from the Emergency Management Agency of any type of emergency, the Office of Unified Communications will take proper action to notify the Office of the Fire Chief and all Divisions so that the provisions of this Plan can be placed into effect. A group page will be initiated from the Office of Unified Communications to all responsible parties.

**Section 4. Responsibilities**

The on-duty Watch Commander is responsible, upon notification of a power emergency, for notifying the Battalion Fire Chief Communications Liaison.

The Battalion Fire Chief Communications Liaison, or in his absence the on-duty Watch Commander is responsible for proper notification concerning the situation to the on-duty Fire Fighting Deputy Fire Chief. He is also responsible for notifying the Office of the Fire Chief and the officer in charge of each Division. This shall be through a group page to all responsible parties.

The Battalion Fire Chief Communications Liaison shall update information to the Fire Department as it is received from the Emergency Management Agency and keep the Emergency Management Agency advised of operational capabilities of the Fire & EMS Department.

The officers in charge of the Training Division, Apparatus Division, and Office of Unified Communications are responsible for taking proper action at their particular facility as required by this Plan and by the situation that develops.

The officer in charge of each of the 33 facilities occupied by fire fighting companies is responsible for taking proper action at his particular facility as required by this Plan and by the situation that develops.

### **Section 5. First Stage - Power Deficiency**

Upon receipt of notice that a power deficiency exists, the responsible officers shall cause the following steps to be taken,

1. Insure that all lights and electrically powered equipment except those necessary to conduct business are manually switched off. Office machines may be operational as necessary.
2. Insure that communication systems with the Office of Unified Communications are kept operational.
3. Only essential telephone calls will be made.
4. Turn off all air-conditioning except at (1) Operations Room – Office of Unified Communications, (2) Fire Operations Center, Engine 2, 500 F St. N.W.
5. Make preparations at each facility to cope with a possible power outage.

### **Section 6. Second Stage - Power Outage**

Upon notification that a power outage exists, the responsible officers shall cause the following steps to be taken:

1. Utilize portable radios for communication at each fire station.
2. Switch all lights, appliances and electrical machinery to the “OFF” position.
3. At the Office of Unified Communications, check that the automatic diesel generator is operating properly and that the electrical use is within its capability.

4. The Office of Deputy Fire Chiefs Firefighting Division will detail a representative to Emergency Management Agency for liaison during the time of the power outage.
5. During fireground operations make every effort to provide sufficient lighting to avoid accidents to fire fighting personnel and citizens involved.

**Section 7. Restoration of Normal Conditions**

1. Maintain power emergency plan in effect until advised to return to normal power usage and activities.
2. Upon notification of deficiency or outage termination, the Fire & EMS Department will return to normal conditions as soon as possible.