

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS – JANUARY 9, 2012

GROUP B – EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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How to respond to an emergency situation depends on the situation itself. However, there are some common elements to all responses. This Group will attempt to cover both general and specific responses.

Using *electrical disruption* as a specific situation, impacts would include:

COMMUNICATION

- Power outage would leave individuals with no source of information (i.e. radio, TV, etc.).
- Blackout would also affect any mobile telephone - how would mobile telephone owners call for help?

Actions:

- Inform and remind residents that mobile phones do not work – list alternatives to use.
- Designate a meeting place (on each floor or a common area for whole building) where residents can gather to receive/exchange information.
- Use PA system for Management to announce the scope of the problem and directions on how to proceed and where to meet.
- Post signs and drop leaflets at every apartment – prepare general information signs (e.g. meeting place) ahead of time if possible.
- Individuals can buy battery operated radios for information.

WATER

- Since water would not be pumped to upper floors (above 7th floor), the following would be affected:

- Drinking water – need 2 litres/person/day
- Toilet facilities & washing – poor hygiene/sanitation leads to disease

Actions:

- Store water in apartment
 - maintain minimum of 30 litres
 - store case of bottled water
- Access to water within building
 - Superintendents' workroom
 - sauna rooms
 - ability to carry water (buckets)
 - assignment of elevator for “water pick-up”
 - assignment of people to gather water
- Washroom facilities available
 - Main floor washrooms
 - Sauna rooms

HEAT

- This would be a seasonal problem, in fall/winter/spring.

Actions:

- Keep blankets on hand, e.g. thermal blanket/comforter/sleeping bag.
- Candles will supply a minimum of heat, but be very careful not to start a fire with them.
- Close doors where possible.
- Find out if pipes will freeze if heat is off for long period of time.

COOLING

- Seasonal problem in summer, affecting personal comfort and food storage.
- Some medications require refrigeration.

Actions:

- If there is electricity, use fans rather than air conditioning as they draw less power.
- If you can't use a fan, leave all windows open for a cross breeze.

- Keep hydrated with plenty of fluids (no alcohol because it dehydrates).
- Exert yourself as little as possible.
- Watch foods in refrigerator for spoilage and be sure to clean out all spoiled items as soon as emergency is over.

ELEVATORS

- One elevator is attached to the generator and will run during power outages.

Actions:

- Organize elevator use and broadcast/publish schedule.
- Should have list of those with mobility issues who must use elevator rather than stairs.

FOOD

- During power outage, cannot use stove.
- Do not use barbeques or propane within apartments.

Actions:

- Keep supply of canned goods and manual can opener on hand.
- Find out if barbeques, etc., can be used on balconies during emergencies.

GENERAL

- ✓ Check on your neighbours with regard to all the impacts listed above.
- ✓ Keep an emergency kit, adapted to your family's individual needs.
- ✓ Check supplies on a regular basis.
- ✓ Check security issues (e.g. key fobs, entry to garage, fire alarm working without electricity) and publish information to all residents.
- ✓ Find out what current emergency procedures are in place through the Management Office, whether they are written down, and which ones should be reported to all residents.