



Utility Disruption

Prepared by Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

If there are no live wires or immediate danger

- After one hour of disrupted service, begin calling parents/guardians to inform them of the situation.
- Call families of infants and children with special needs first. These families may be called sooner depending on level of disruption to basic caregiving routines.

The facility may close if the following conditions are present

- Room temperature registers 68° or below, or 85° or higher for one hour, with no expectation of heat/air conditioning restoration within the next one to two hours, and/or the room conditions prevent adequate ventilation and breathing.
- Lighting (natural or emergency) is diminished to the point that children and staff are at risk.
- Phone lines will be inoperable for more than one hour, and no auxiliary cellular phones are available. Staff must have means to reach all parents to pick up children before closing facility.
- Nutritional needs of the children cannot be met.
- Loss of water that disrupts appropriate diapering, hand washing, and toileting with clean running water for more than 1 hour.

Food safety during utility outages

- Keep doors of refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Keep raw foods separate from ready to eat foods.
- If refrigerator temperature is above 40 degrees for more than two (2) hours, discard perishable foods.
- Frozen foods that remain frozen are not a risk. If potentially hazardous foods are thawed, but still cold or have ice crystals on them, use them as soon as possible. If potentially hazardous foods are warmer than 45 degrees Fahrenheit, discard them.
- Contact your local Public Health Agency for any questions regarding the safety of food. If in doubt, throw it out.

Planning and preparation

- Monitor weather conditions (storms, ice, snow) which could affect utilities.
- Consider pre-storm closing or early closing depending upon conditions.
- Have flashlights or other emergency lighting readily accessible. Check monthly.

Location of flashlights: _____

- Have drinking water supplies available.
- Have back-up communication available
- Have first aid kit; check and rotate supplies regularly.

Practice drills and check smoke detectors monthly

- Date: _____ Staff initial: _____

Sources:
Child Health Information and Prevention Resources (CHIPR) www.childhealthonline

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