Northern Powergrid: Power cut treasure hunt

This fun activity will help young people understand what to do in the event of a power cut

Questions:

Q: What do you need to check when the electricity first goes off?

A: Fuse box

With an adult, check your trip switches. Turn off all switches and turn them back on. If this doesn't work, it's probably a power cut. Young people can also look out at the street: if it's dark and no one has any lights on, it's probably a power cut.





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Q: What is a useful thing to keep handy so you can see in the dark?

A: Torch

Do not use candles as they are a fire hazard. You could get a lamp that you can stand up.

Q: What do you need spares of in case your torch runs out of power?

A: Batteries

Or, why not use a wind up torch? Then you won't need any batteries.

Q: Can you cook during a power cut?

A: Yes, if you have a gas cooker

Electric ovens won't work but gas cookers should still operate, although will have to be lit (by an adult) with a match. It's worth having a store of emergency food that doesn't need to be cooked.

Q: What is useful to have in case you need to call someone?

A: Fully-charged mobile phone

It's good to keep a mobile charged, as you won't be able to charge it up in a power cut. Landline phones that aren't powered will still work but cordless ones won't. Call the **national helpline on 105** for information on the power cut.

POWER CUT? CALL 105

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Q: How could you find out why you have a power cut?

A: A battery powered or wind-up radio.

Tune into a local radio station. Or, you can call the national helpline on 105.

Q: What should you try to keep closed during a power cut, to help food stay cold?

A: Fridge/freezer

Your fridge will keep food safe for up to four hours during a power cut. A freezer will keep its temperature for around 48 hours if it's full or 24 hours if it's half-full.

Q: What might be useful if it's cold?

A: Blankets and spare clothing

If there is no power, central heating or electric radiators won't work.

Q: Who should you check on during a power cut?

A: Vulnerable neighbours

Check if any assistance is needed by people who are ill, old people or families with young children or babies.

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