



Power Failure Response Plan

UT Department of Theatre • 206 McClung Tower • Knoxville, TN 37996

APPLICATION

This procedure shall be placed into effect any time there is a power failure.

OVERVIEW

Power failures can occur under a variety of circumstances. Many power outages are of a short duration (a few seconds or less) and generally present as an inconvenience rather than a danger. More serious outages can have dangerous or unpredictable consequences and are often the side effect of another emergency.

While power failures are unpredictable, they are also one of the easiest emergencies to be prepared for. The following outlines the preparations that are in place as part of the facility design and those that must be made as part of production operations.

EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

Power outages and fluctuations—no matter how short—can create problems for computer and other electronic equipment. Power outages are often followed by significant fluctuations in the electrical grid as power surges into the system much as water might surge into a river from a lake should a dam break.

All computers owned by the Department have been set to remain off following a power outage as a precaution against just this type of damage. Even so, in order to protect equipment and data from damage, it is advisable to unplug devices during the power outage and keep them unplugged until the power stabilizes.

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE EMERGENCY LIGHTING

In the event of a power failure at the Clarence Brown Theatre, a backup generator will automatically activate to provide power for emergency lighting and emergency exit signs. This generator can take up to a minute to fully activate following an outage. Certain rooms throughout the facility are not serviced by this generator and include: NW Stair Top Level [299S3]; SW Stair Top Level [299S2]; Lab Theatre* [E201]; Stagehouse [S104]; Lobby [199A/B/C]; Box Office [O101]; Scene Shop [S122]; Computer Lab [S012B/C]; Trap Room [S017]; Costume Shop [W011]; Prop Cage [no label]; Scene Dock [S011/A/B].

In the event of a power failure, the Air Handling Units for the Lobby and Stagehouse will need to be manually restarted once power is restored. The start button for the Lobby unit is located on the wall in the Concession Stand Closet [L101]. The start button for the Stagehouse unit is located on at the CS end of the Dimmer Room wall to the right of the thermostats—lift the cover to reveal the switch.

* The Lab Theatre is equipped with battery operated emergency lights.

CAROUSEL THEATRE EMERGENCY LIGHTING

In the event of a power failure at the Carousel Theatre, emergency lighting units throughout the facility will automatically and immediately activate. A few minor rooms in this facility are not equipped with emergency lighting. These include: Control Booth [100]; Dimmer Room [102]; Men's Room [103]; Women's Room [104]; Dressing Rooms [106/107]. All of the aforementioned rooms have windows to provide lighting during daytime hours and are relatively small and free of obstacles in the event that there is a power failure at night.

RESPONSE PROCEDURE—NON-PERFORMANCE MODE

During non-performance times, all building occupants should respond to a power outage as follows:

1. If the power failure is the obvious result of another emergency (explosion, fire, accident, etc.) respond to that emergency as appropriate.
2. Wait for emergency lighting to engage
 - Emergency lighting in the Clarence Brown Theatre may take up to a minute to activate where available.
 - Remember some rooms are not equipped with emergency lighting.
3. Evacuate the facility in a calm and orderly fashion.
 - Evacuation is required for any power failure lasting more than 60 seconds as emergency lighting is of limited duration and egress with such dim illumination may take some time.
4. Report to the gathering locations as you would with a Fire Alarm evacuation
5. Report power failures to the Production Manager (c.865-387-5073) as soon as possible.

RESPONSE PROCEDURE—PERFORMANCE MODE

During productions, all Deck Crew, Dressers, Stage Managers, Stage Management Assistants, House Managers, and Ushers should be equipped with flashlights in order to assist with an orderly evacuation in the event of a power failure. Should a power failure occur during a performance, the following checklist should guide the response:

1. If the power failure is the obvious result of another emergency (explosion, fire, accident, etc.) respond to that emergency as appropriate; otherwise, stop the show. All cast and crew should remain where they are.
2. A Stage Management Assistant should be instructed to make the following announcement from the stage as soon as possible:

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We are currently experiencing technical difficulties and ask that you remain seated while we work to determine the extent of the problem. If you must leave your seat, please ask one of our Ushers located at the emergency exits for assistance. As soon as we have additional information we will make another announcement. Thank you...

3. Wait for emergency lighting to engage
 - Emergency lighting in the Clarence Brown Theatre may take up to a minute to activate where available.
 - Remember some rooms are not equipped with emergency lighting.
4. If the outage lasts more than 3 minutes, contact the Manager-on-Duty (contact information posted at the Main Box Office's primary entrance) for instructions on when and whether to cancel the performance..
5. If the outage lasts more than 5 minutes, evacuate the facility in a calm and orderly fashion.
 - Evacuation is required for any power failure lasting more than 5 minutes as emergency lighting is of limited duration and egress with such dim illumination may take some time.
6. Report to the gathering locations as you would with a Fire Alarm evacuation
7. Report power failures to the Production Manager (c.865-387-5073) as soon as possible.