

# HOW DO I BEHAVE IN THE EVENT OF A BLACKOUT?

## WHAT IS A BLACKOUT?

A blackout is a prolonged and widespread power failure leading to widespread infrastructure failures in a region over a period of more than 24 hours.

- Lights,
  - heating,
  - telephone,
  - refrigerator,
  - water supply and sewage disposal,
  - mobile phone network,
  - petrol stations,
  - ATMs,
  - etc..
- stop functioning properly.

## HOW DO I RECOGNISE A BLACKOUT?

In the first few minutes, a blackout looks like a normal power failure. Electrical appliances and lights do not work. Checking the fuse box reveals no irregularities. It becomes apparent that the blackout has not been triggered by an overload or a short circuit in your own home.

There is also no electricity in the neighbourhood. Traffic lights and street lamps are no longer working. A blackout lasts for several hours, days or even weeks.

If a significant portion of the power supply network has been affected, the authorities inform the population by radio, loudspeaker announcements and – to the extent that this is still possible – via the warning app NINA.



## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fire brigade, rescue service: 112

Police: 110

Emergency meeting point\* organised locally:

\* Various municipalities offer „emergency meeting points“. These serve as a first point of contact in emergencies. Emergency calls can be made there and current information on the general situation can be obtained. It is also possible to heat up baby food, for example. Please ask your local authority in advance about the availability or location of an emergency meeting point. Sometimes this may be the town hall or fire station itself.

**ATTENTION:** Emergency meeting points do not operate as supply centres for the distribution of food. This is primarily the responsibility of each individual.

### Legal and content-related information:

The above information was compiled for you by the Ravensburg District Office, Civil Protection and Crisis Management Unit to the best of its knowledge and belief.

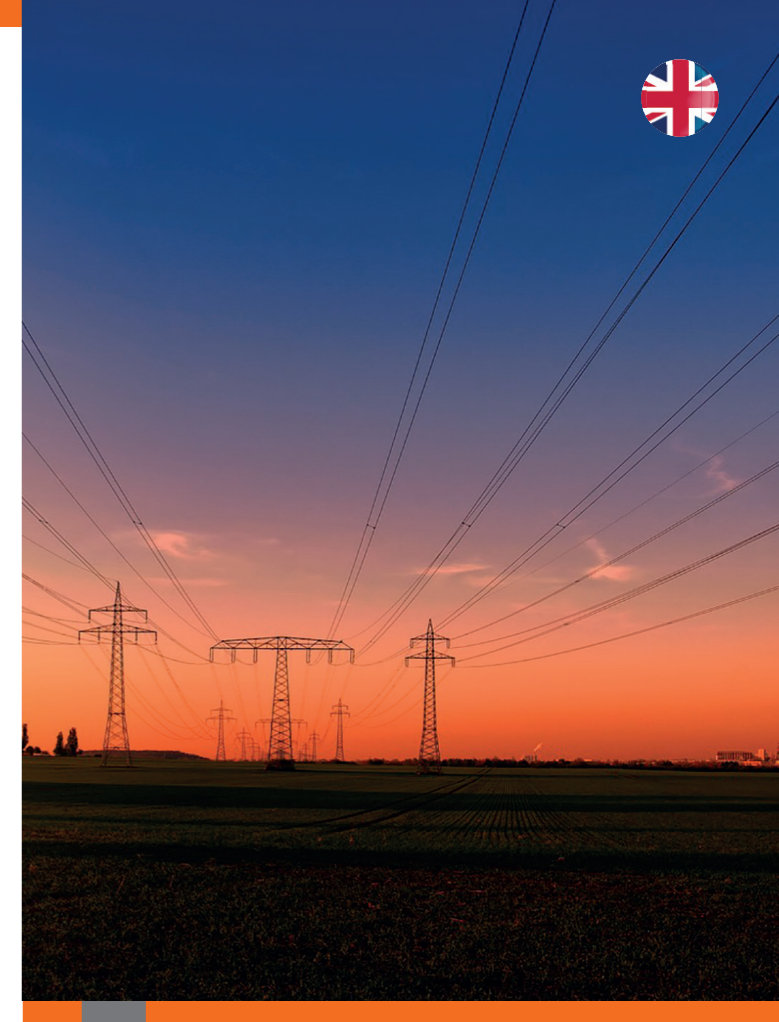
Therefore, all legal claims are excluded. Rather, this information is intended to make it easier for you to prepare for a possible blackout.

You can also obtain further important tips and information at

[www.bbk.bund.de/EN](http://www.bbk.bund.de/EN) and  
[www.schritt-fuer-schritt-krisenfit.de](http://www.schritt-fuer-schritt-krisenfit.de)

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## WHAT SHOULD I DO IN THE EVENT OF A BLACKOUT?

Information and tips for the population from the administrative district of Ravensburg

## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A BLACKOUT?

You can prepare very well for a blackout. Food supplies for personal use and supplementary emergency preparedness are important here. Preparing for an emergency situation is your responsibility alone! The aim of planning is to enable survival over a long period of time. The following questions are useful when planning:

- Have you stocked up enough to last at least 10 days without shopping (food, water, hygiene items, medicines, etc.)?
- Have arrangements been made with close relatives in case communication is no longer possible?
- Is there a printed/handwritten list of the most important telephone numbers (emergency, family, employer, pharmacy/doctor's surgery)?
- Have batteries (laptop, mobile phone, telephone) been charged up? Are spare batteries, solar-powered battery chargers or even power banks available?
- Where can emergencies be reported? For example, the fire station, town hall, rescue station, police station or a special emergency meeting point set up by the local authority. (Please ask your local authority and make a note, e.g. in the notes field of this flyer.)



## WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A BLACKOUT?

Keep calm and take care of your health!

Here is a short checklist on the proper actions you should take during blackouts. The list should be regarded as individual and adjusted to take into account your personal circumstances.

### Measures to be taken in your home

- Do not call emergency numbers unless there is a real emergency! Otherwise vital emergency calls may be blocked!
- Inform all members of your household about the blackout and make arrangements to bring them together (if necessary).
- Switch off all electrical appliances that were in use or unplug the mains cable (e.g. iron, cooker). One light should be left on so that you know when power is restored.
- Tune the radio to FM for information. Tune in regularly on the hour. Regional stations such as SWR or Radio 7 are useful in this respect.



- Check light and heat sources and keep them ready at hand.
- Ensure that there are no tripping hazards in the house.
- Use water sparingly and fill up a few containers (watering cans, buckets, collapsible containers) if necessary. Rainwater cisterns are an excellent source of service water.
- Avoid waste as much as possible and collect it in rubbish bags.
- Rapidly perishable food should be consumed first or – if possible – processed.
- Keep an eye on freezers and watch out for possible leaks. The defrosting process will start earlier, especially in combo units. Keep a supply of cloths close at hand.



## WHAT SHOULD I PAY ATTENTION TO WHEN THE POWER SUPPLY IS RESTORED?

- Check major appliances (e.g. heating appliances, refrigerator) for proper functioning and switch them on again. Leave all other devices switched off initially and/or check whether they have been switched off – otherwise there is a risk of a repeated outage of the power supply.
- Wait for and follow instructions on the radio/warning app. Make as few calls as possible to avoid overloading the network.
- Those who are not urgently required for the restart of infrastructure should remain at home or in the immediate vicinity.



- Is a complete first aid kit available? Are your medicines up to date?
- Do you have enough cash on hand?
- Is there an electricity-independent radio (battery, hand-crank)?
- Are there any illuminants available that are not dependent on electricity (candles, torch)?
- Is a spare cooking facility (wood, gas cooker) available?
- Are there alternative sources of electricity and heating (wood stove, solar panel system with islanding capability)?
- Is the sewage system dependent on electricity (pumping system, backwater flap)?
- Is it possible to, say, manually unlock an electric garage door?
- Can your pets be taken care of?

The Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe, BBK) provides a lot of useful information and detailed shopping and checklists which can be downloaded and ordered on its website. [www.bbk.bund.de/EN](http://www.bbk.bund.de/EN)



- If available, prepare your own emergency power supply.

- If wood central heating is available, make sure that overheating does not occur.



- If there are pets in your household, pay attention to their needs, e.g. ensure a supply of heat or oxygen for aquariums/terrariums.
- Those who are not needed for important tasks (infrastructure, fire brigade, THW, aid organisations, etc.) should stay at home or in their living environment.

### Measures in the neighbouring area

- Get in touch with neighbours. Not everyone will be immediately aware of the blackout. Check whether people are trapped in a lift. Organise access to residential property because the door bell system will no longer be working.
- Use existing or temporary notice boards to display information.
- Check whether there are people in need of care in the neighbourhood who are no longer receiving care. Organise neighbourhood help. Help „stranded“ people as far as possible.
- Offer first aid skills in the neighbouring area.



- Stay alert! Immediately report any out-of-the-ordinary circumstances (e.g. sewage leaks, fires, crime) to the emergency reporting points. If it becomes necessary, help to de-escalate critical situations. Never put yourself in danger!

- Save resources! Supplies of medicine, food and fuel will only be available to a very limited extent or will only start up again slowly.



- Neighbourhood help is still very important. Offer help where possible.

- Purchases will initially only be possible using cash, if at all.

