

The Roseland Centre

Power Cut Risk Assessment

Contributors to date: CM, Paul Lakeman.

The decision of whether a residing school group can stay in UK booked accommodation during a power cut depends on the specific circumstances and the risks involved. The following is a breakdown of the factors considered at TRC.

Accommodation Suitability:

- **Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarms:** If the accommodation has battery-powered emergency lighting and fire alarms, they can function for a limited time during a power cut. However, once the batteries run out, the safety measures will be compromised. TRC emergency lighting will stay lit for the minimum emergency time for small buildings, (1hr). In some circumstances this may be longer depending on the condition, brand and age of the batteries and system.
- **Heating and Ventilation:** Without power, heating and ventilation systems will be inoperable. This could lead to discomfort, especially in colder weather. TRC has an electric thermostat system that would be inoperable in a power cut.
- **Sanitation:** Toilets and showers may not function without power, depending on the type of plumbing system. At TRC hot water would be compromised during a power cut.
- **Food Storage:** Refrigeration and cooking facilities will be unavailable, potentially leading to food spoilage and the inability to prepare meals. At TRC all fridges and freezers would turn off at the point of a power cut.

Duration of the Power Cut:

The length of the power outage is a critical factor. Short-term disruptions may be manageable dynamically, but extended outages can significantly impact the group's safety and well-being.

Risk Assessment:

Risk	Who it affects	How is this controlled
Inability to use essential facilities (lighting, heating, cooking, sanitation).	Staff, participants and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate lighting (flashlights), and heating (blankets, spare sleeping bags), if necessary. • Prepare meals in advance or use alternative cooking methods, (camp stoves, BBQs, campfire - outside). • Have a contingency plan for sanitation (e.g., bucket toilets, water from alternative sources such as water butts). • TRC staff to regularly check any battery-powered equipment and have backup plans in place. • Pre-plan alternative solutions with visiting group if the inclement weather is forecasted. • If prolonged, (into the dark hours/longer than the Centre emergency lighting), plan to cancel event/booking and make alternative arrangements.

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Failure of emergency lighting and fire alarms.	Staff, participants and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan ahead and use alternative lighting sources, (flashlights, glow sticks), to ensure safe evacuation in case of fire. • TRC staff or Group Lead to conduct a practice fire drill to familiarize everyone with emergency procedures, (refer to the current TRC NOP). • Assign designated individuals to monitor exits and guide people to safety. • If prolonged, (into the dark hours/longer than the Centre emergency lighting), plan to cancel event/booking or make alternative arrangements. • If fire alarm batteries fail and do not return to normal after testing a breakpoint plan to cancel event/booking and make alternative arrangements.
Disruption of communication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have backup communication methods, (mobile phones, etc). • Establish a designated contact person for updates and coordination. • If prolonged, (into the dark hours/longer than the Centre emergency lighting), plan to cancel event/booking and make alternative arrangements.
Potential for increased stress and anxiety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC Staff/Group Leads to provide reassurance and support to group members. • Have activities and games planned to keep people occupied and reduce stress. • If prolonged, (into the dark hours/longer than the Centre emergency lighting), plan to cancel event/booking and make alternative arrangements.
Increased risk of accidents and injuries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate lighting in all areas to prevent falls and other accidents, (torches, camping lamps, etc). • Be cautious when using alternative heating and cooking methods to avoid fires and burns, (outside only). • Have first-aid kits readily available.

Decision-Making:

With any power cut experienced locally the Group Lead who is residing/booked at the Centre and the TRC Management Team should attempt to establish clear and concise communication as soon as possible.

TRC Management phone number: **07940098860**

Based on the above risk assessment and the specific circumstances, the decision to stay or relocate the school group should be made carefully and be discussed professionally. If the power outage is expected to be short-term and the group is reasonably equipped to handle the situation, staying may be feasible. However, if the power outage is prolonged or the accommodation/group lacks essential facilities, an alternative plan of action may be the safest and most prudent course of action.

TRC Management Staff and/or Trustees will arrive onsite if required and safe to do so.

TRC Safety Lighting & Alarm System:

These timings and quality checks are performed weekly, (alarm break points), and monthly, (fire lighting and all other checks), by TRC Management and logged comprehensively in the TRC FRA logbook.

- During a power cut TRC emergency fire exit lighting currently runs out of battery power after:
- During a power cut TRC Fire Alarm current runs out of battery power after:

Item	Approx battery life	Actual battery life	Tested
Fire alarms/system	3hrs minimum	TBC	Weekly
Emergency exit lighting	1hr minimum	TBC	Monthly
Emergency lighting charge	N/A	N/A	Daily walk around

Additional considerations for Group Leads:

- Local Conditions: Group Leads should consider the local weather conditions and the potential impact of the power outage on the group's comfort and safety. They should plan ahead and be prepared for dynamic change.
- Communication with TRC staff: Group Leads should keep the TRC staff informed about the power outage and discuss potential solutions or alternative arrangements in mind.
- Emergency Preparedness: Group Leads should have a comprehensive emergency plan in place, including procedures for evacuation, first aid, and communication.

Signed	Date	Updates	Next Review Date
Paul Lakeman	03/01/25	-	03/01/26