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IA 11 – Power Failure

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1 Purpose

- The purpose of this annex is to provide a framework of coordination among agencies to help ensure the safety of life and property during electric power failures affecting Klamath County.
- It defines roles, responsibilities, and organizational relationships of government and private agencies in response to power failures.
- The primary focus of this annex is power failures and the affect they could have on the safety and security of the population - and economic and business activity within the County.

2 Situation and Assumptions

2.1 Situation

- Power resources (generation, transmission, and distribution) have become the most important element of infrastructure in our economy. The interruption of power causes immediate and widespread disruption of services to any community, and Klamath County is no exception.
- Klamath County may experience power failures or outages ranging from a few hours to several days. Power failures may result from any of the following causes:
 - Ice and high winds may bring down electric power lines over a wide area, causing widespread outages.
 - An earthquake could topple transmission towers or distribution lines or severely damage substations, resulting in widespread outages.
 - Using basic conventional weapons, vandals or terrorists could attack power infrastructure, causing power failures and lengthy outages.
 - Technological failures, such as flashovers on high voltage lines, could cause generators to automatically trip off-line. This could result in cascading outages affecting Klamath County.
- Power failures often occur along with other serious disruptions, such as heat waves, cold snaps, windstorms, snow storms, and other severe weather phenomena. Resources can be stretched to the limit, degrading response and recovery operations.
- Power failures and outages could impact Klamath County in any or all of the following ways:

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- Air conditioning or heating could be lost to residences, businesses, and private and public buildings.
- Streets lights, traffic lights, and other public safety equipment could be out of service.
- ATMs and banking activities could be interrupted.
- Telecommunications and information infrastructure could be impaired.
- Pumps in gasoline stations could be out of service.
- As a result, critical County facilities should have Uninterruptible Power Sources and emergency generators with dedicated, secure external fuel tanks.

2.2 Assumptions

- Nearly all power failures and outages occur without warning.
- Restoration of electric service will lead to stabilization of emergency conditions.
- As urbanization and dependency on electric power increases, the potential problems and impacts that power failures can have on County resources will be compounded.
- All County equipment and personnel will be available to cope with emergency conditions. Assistance through mutual aid agreements may be necessary.
- Additional resources may be obtained through contracting with local vendors.

3 Roles and Responsibilities**3.1 Building Maintenance Department**

- The Building Maintenance Department is responsible for maintaining and implementing departmental contingency plans in the event of power failure.
- Building Maintenance should ensure that the emergency generators for County facilities are operational and tested periodically.
- Building Maintenance will ensure that all fuel tanks for emergency generators are filled.

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3.2 Sheriff's Department

- The Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining and implementing departmental contingency plans in the event of power failure.
- In the course of patrols during power outages, assist local law enforcement to direct traffic at congested intersections where traffic lights are out of service.
- Limit or restrict travel on County roads that pose special hazardous conditions due to power failure.

3.3 Klamath County Emergency Management Agency

- Monitor the impact of the power outage throughout the county. Coordinate closely with Pacific Power and alert department heads and other key staff of the status and expected duration of the outage.
- If the EOC is not activated, Klamath County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for ensuring inter-department and inter-agency coordination.
- Inform OERS of the status of the outage and efforts to respond and recover from emergency conditions.

3.4 Public Works Department

- In conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and Fire Districts, Public Works will provide road signs and barriers, as needed

4 Concept of Operations**4.1 General**

- Restoration of electric power is the responsibility of Pacific Power and Light (PP&L). PP&L maintains and tests emergency plans that will enable damage assessment, location of the source of the outage, and prioritization and restoration of electric service.
- If the outage originates on the BPA transmission system, PP&L will work closely with BPA to locate the source of the problem and restore power.
- County Emergency Management Agency and each County department need to have contingency plans for power failures and outages.
- Critical County facilities should have UPS and emergency generators with dedicated, secure external fuel tanks.

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- Planning, preparing for, and coordinating the response to power failures are primarily the responsibility of Klamath County Emergency Management Agency. Other County departments are responsible for planning to recover and maintain their own operations and services during power outages.
- Under most circumstances, response to and recovery from power failures will be managed by each County Department director.
 - Depending on the scope of the incident, the County EOC may be partially activated and some assistance from other departments may be needed in the EOC.
 - Some circumstances may require a unified command. For example, joint efforts of the County Incident Commander (IC) and the Pacific Power IC may be needed to more efficiently manage response and recovery resources.
 - In extreme cases, full activation of the County EOC may be required. In this case, representatives of Pacific Power should have key liaison positions in the EOC.

4.2 Interagency Coordination**4.2.1 Power Outages**

- PP&L will provide response to the loss of commercial power.
- During large emergencies when the EOC is activated, a PP&L liaison should be available to the County EOC.

4.2.2 Shelters

(also see ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services)

- If temporary lodging is needed due to a power outage, the American Red Cross will activate and provide information to the public regarding shelter locations. The American Red Cross will manage shelter operations for the shelters that they activate.
- The Klamath Basin Senior Citizen Council can assist in locating and Provide contact information for Senior Citizen Council contacting individual elderly citizens who may need assistance during power outages.
- The Senior Citizen Center may also be a resource.

4.2.3 Emergency Transportation

- Sources of emergency transportation include public transit companies, school districts, four wheel-drive clubs, and under a declared emergency, the National Guard. See also ESF-1 Transportation of this plan.

5 Appendices

None at this time.

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