

Loss of Power/Electricity: (updated October 2024)

Information about power on UVU campus

- UVU campuses receive power from Rocky Mountain Power. UVU main campus has added a substation on the north side of campus. The substation is dependent on Rocky Mountain Power and may not be affected when power in the surrounding areas goes down.
- Most of Orem main campus is connected to the substation, however some areas are not (see map). This means if there is a general power outage in the area, the main campus may still be up and running while buildings close by may have a loss of power.
- There are generators located throughout campus that will activate within several seconds of power loss. Generators power life safety equipment (i.e. police dispatch center, elevators, hallway lights, etc.)
- Some desk top computers have a battery (UPS), a standalone battery backup “black box” that could last for a couple of hours. Without the UPS desk top computers will not work during a loss of power. Laptops will work depending on how much battery power is stored.
- **Responsibilities for Building Marshals/Floor Captains:** If possible, this group will conduct a quick check to see if people are okay and safe. They may call facilities at 801-863-8130 if there is something extreme that needs to be reported. They may call 911 or 5555 (UVU PD) if there is a life-or-death emergency.
- In general, most power outages last for less than an hour. It will take 30-40 minutes to ascertain the problem, solution, and timing of the return of power. If the length of power loss is longer there will be communication with the campus about what to expect and actions that should be taken.

What should you do if the power goes out?

- Ensure personal safety and the safety of others close by. If possible, move to an area with more light.
- Wait for about 15 minutes before calling facilities. The reason for this is most power outages are short-term. There are immediate actions being taken when power is lost to assess and ascertain the cause and how fast power can be restored, this takes time. After 15 minutes call facilities at 801-863-8130. If it is after hours call 801-863-5555 (UVU PD dispatch).
- If in an elevator when the power goes out, the elevator will return to the ground level and the doors will open. Do not use the elevator when the power is off. If the elevator does not return to the ground floor, use the emergency phone/button inside the elevator to call for help.
- Do not assume that because there is a power loss employees should go home. As mentioned most loss of power is short-term.

What is UVU Facilities doing during the power outage?

- The immediate response is to figure out if the power outage is localized to UVU main campus or if it goes beyond the campus. Is the problem UVU’s or Rocky Mountain Power’s?
- UVU representatives will call Rocky Mountain Power immediately to find out more information.

- Once the problem has been identified, a time frame is estimated for the return of power. This time frame can and often will change. This information will be shared as possible throughout the campus.
- Communication methods: Alertus (desk computers), UVUAlert: text message, UVU app notification, main UVU website announcement, public announcement system.

What happens during a long-term power outage?

- After the first 30-40 minutes there should be enough information to know how large the problem is and the scope of repair.
- When this information is known an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated. This will allow appropriate decisions to be made and communication to be shared with the campus community about what will happen and what to expect.
- There will be several factors that determine whether the campus will remain open or close. These factors will not be known until the event occurs.