

WHY FIRE SAFETY IS SO IMPORTANT DURING A POWER OUTAGE!

We in industrialized nations like Germany rely on various energy sources that are delivered directly to our homes. These include electricity, gas, oil, and long-distance heating. If these energy sources fail, we can help ourselves with small gas-powered heaters and lights or with candles. But open flames can quickly become dangerous! Fire safety is therefore very important. The following applies:

- » Smoke detectors provide safety and can save lives in the event of a fire. That is why every living space should have them. Smoke detectors are required in bedrooms and children's rooms. If a hallway serves as an escape route from a living area, a smoke detector must also be installed there.
- » Open flames consume oxygen. Therefore, always ensure adequate ventilation when using gas appliances or candles indoors.
- » Turn off all electrical appliances immediately if the power goes out. This is especially true for appliances that get hot, such as stoves, ovens, irons, coffee makers, kettles, electric blankets, and fan heaters. This prevents them from overheating and causing damage when power is restored.
- » Always keep fire extinguishing equipment, such as a fire extinguisher, a garden hose, or a fire blanket, within easy reach.
- » If you are planning to purchase a gas-fired heating appliance, you should ensure that it can be used safely. Important are safety measures like an oxygen depletion sensor and a safety pilot.

Important Tips and Information



www.ludwigsburg.de/notfallplan



Preparing for a power outage:

[-> Link](#)



Personal Emergency Preparation:

A guide to emergency preparation and how to respond appropriately in emergency situations, including a checklist

[-> Link](#)



Ministry of the Interior, Digitalization, and Local Government of Baden-Württemberg
www.notfalltreffpunkt-bw.de

Further information

Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance
www.bbk.bund.de

German Association of Energy and Water Industries
www.bdew.de

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LUDWIGSBURG

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR POWER OUTAGES

What happens if the power goes out for an extended period of time?

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POWER OUTAGE IN GERMANY?

The electricity supply in Germany is very reliable. Prolonged power outages are rare. European countries have interconnected their power grids. This integrated grid ensures a stable electricity supply. The participating countries help one another, for example, if a power plant goes offline.

Nevertheless, there may be times when Germany experiences prolonged power outages. This was the case, for example, during the snowy winter of 1978–79. At that time, large parts of Germany were without power. Sometimes the weather is directly to blame. In late 2005, the Münsterland region was without power for days. A sudden cold snap with heavy snowfall had damaged the power grid operators' infrastructure.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A POWER OUTAGE?

All electrically powered systems, machines, and devices will immediately stop working. As a result, city trains and long-distance trains may come to a standstill, or people may be unable to shop because cash registers and doors at supermarkets no longer work. At home, it may be dark because the lights are out. Or it may get cold because the heating is no longer working. Televisions, computers used for internet access, and most radios will no longer work. Charging stations for cell phones, tablets, and similar devices often stop working immediately. Refrigerators and freezers defrost, causing food to spoil quickly. Vehicles cannot be refueled at the gas stations.

Especially dependent on electricity are the communication networks: if the power goes out, it takes only a few hours before the landline network becomes unavailable. And experience has shown that mobile networks quickly become overloaded during major events.

PREPARE YOURSELF!

One can prepare oneself for prolonged power outages. How this can be done, is explained inside the pamphlet.

EMERGENCY PLAN OF THE CITY OF LUDWIGSBURG – WHO WILL HELP WHEN NOTHING IS WORKING?

If the power is out for several days, the city of Ludwigsburg will convene a crisis management team of experts. They will handle:

» **Meeting points** ☀

They are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can find information about the power outage here. You will also receive tips and advice on what to do next.

» **Emergency contact points** 🔔

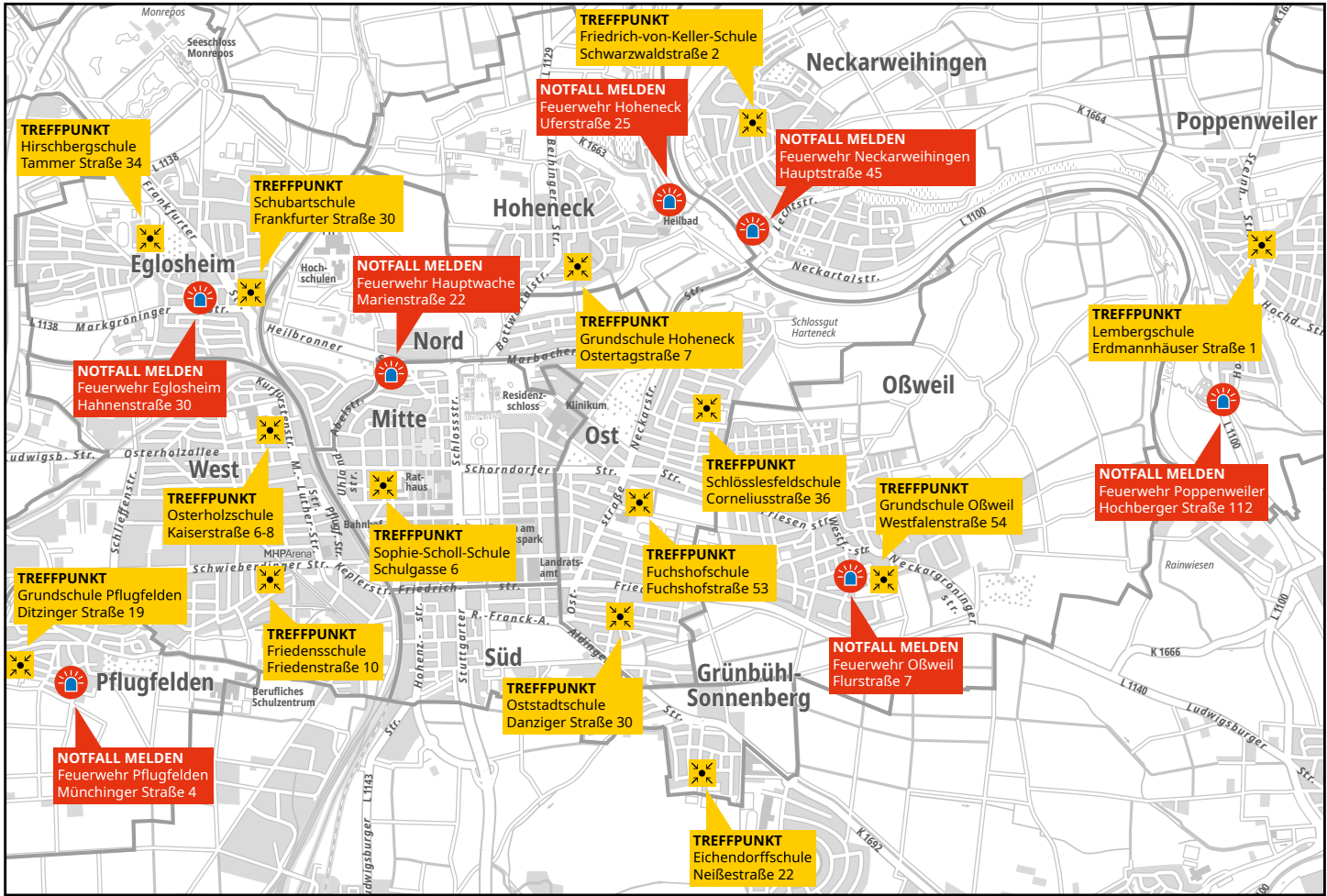
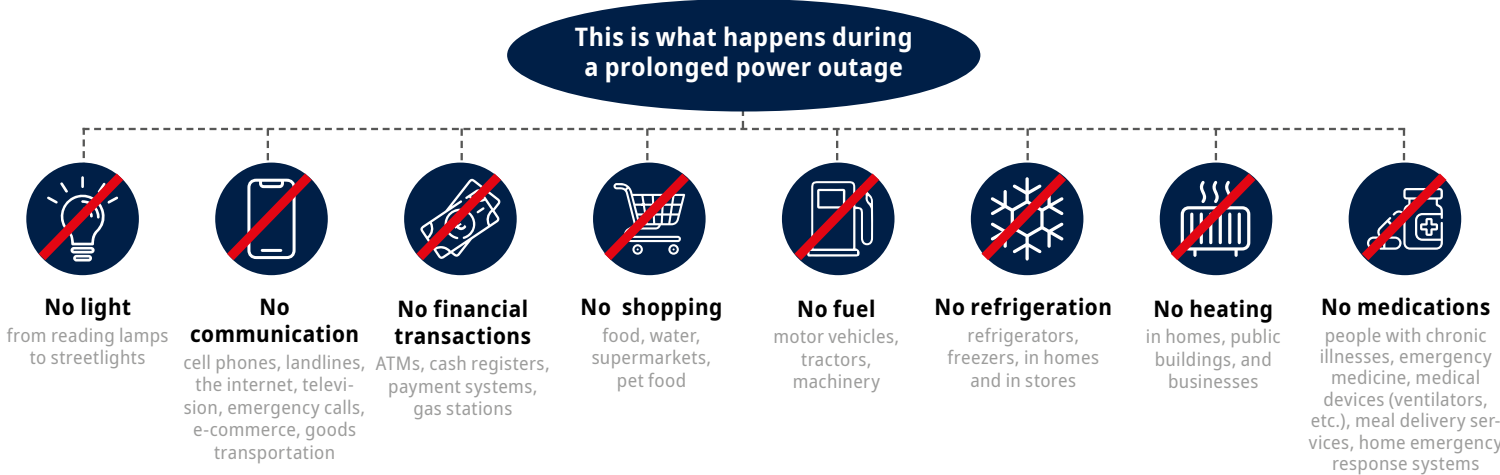
The main fire brigade station in the city center and the fire brigade stations in the other parts of the city are contact points for absolute emergencies. If you need to call 110 or 112, you can go to these locations. They are always open (24 hours a day!).

» **Power supply**

The Ludwigsburg-Kornwestheim Public Utilities will work closely with the city's crisis management team. They will strive to restore power as quickly as possible.

» **Drinking water supply and wastewater**

The facilities operated by Bodensee- and state water supply (Bodensee- und Landeswasserversorgung) can provide drinking water for several days using an emergency power supply. Wastewater disposal is not a problem in most buildings. However, if your building's water supply and wastewater disposal systems rely on electricity, they will cease to function.



TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR AND DEALING WITH A POWER OUTAGE

Prepare for a power outage. The goal should be for you and your family to be able to get by for a few days without help from others. Outdoor and camping stores offer a wide variety of equipment that can be helpful in emergencies.

- » Stock up on enough supplies: drinking water, non-perishable food, baby food if needed, hygiene products, and so on.
- » Get candles and flashlights with batteries, or camping lanterns with gas cartridges. This will help you find your way around safely at home, even in the evening or at night.
- » Get a small camping stove with gas cartridges. This will allow you to prepare food or hot drinks.
- » Be prepared to care for family members who need assistance on your own and without help for a period of time if necessary.
- » Get a battery-powered radio.
- » Get enough batteries or gas cartridges for your devices and lamps.
- » With a battery-powered radio or the car radio, you can receive information from the city's official crisis management team and the power companies (SWR Radio).
- » Put on warm winter clothes if the heating is not functioning.
- » Use your own generators only outdoors. They produce toxic fumes.
- » Find out more at www.bbk.bund.de