



Important Information To Help You Reduce Your Losses In The Event Of Power Disruption

Boiler & Machinery (Refrigeration):

Power disruptions and refrigeration breakdowns adversely affect numerous grocery stores each year, resulting in expensive equipment repair, spoiled product, and lost sales.

While power supplies are usually quite reliable, power outages do happen frequently in some areas.

While incidents like the wide spread power failure in Southern Ontario on August 14, 2003 are outside of your control, steps can be taken to greatly reduce the effects of this type of loss.

Power Outages or Brown Outs:

Without power for refrigeration units, stock is lost after only a few hours. Without power for lights and cash registers, your store must close. You cannot even sell the stock before it spoils because scales and price scanners will not work.

Those stores with back up generators were able to cope well with the power outage.

After power returns, refrigeration equipment can suffer major damage if they are not restarted properly. If all units try to restart at once, it may result in the units running on single-phase instead of three-phase power, resulting in breakdowns of the compressor units.

Power Outage Procedures:

Emergency shutdown and start up procedures should be set up with a local electrician. Call electrician immediately when power fails.

1. Prevent loss of sales data by powering down cash registers and computer systems while there is power available from the battery backups.
2. Move all meats and perishables to freezers and coolers, keeping doors closed as much as possible. Seal

doors to preserve the temperatures as long as possible.

3. Turn off circuit breakers for all the refrigeration systems and main lighting circuits to prevent damage when power returns. (Circuit breakers that need to be shut off should be pre-marked by electrician)
4. Arrange for refrigerated trucks to be brought in (if available) if power outage lasts for more than an hour.
5. When power is restored, refrigeration units should be turned back on one unit at a time to allow each unit to fully power up before turning on the next unit.

Mechanical Breakdown:

Refrigeration units run continuously under heavy loads. Compressors in enclosed rooms may need additional ventilation during very hot, humid weather. A failure of even one exhaust fan can result in overheating and possible failure of compressors. Roof top units may need additional cooling from water sprinklers.

Precautions:

1. Ensure that compressor rooms are clean and free of dirt and debris.
2. Check compressor room temperatures regularly during very hot weather. (Provide additional ventilation to keep temp. down.)
3. Install excess temperature alarms in the compressor rooms.
4. Arrange for a full-service preventative maintenance contract - this can greatly reduce the chances of compressor failure especially on older units.
5. Install monitored refrigeration alarms that will notify the alarm company when temperatures rise in the units. This will provide time to take steps to preserve stock before it spoils.
6. Set up and post procedures to deal with power outage, breakdown and start-ups.

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