

When the power goes, the door still has to close.

Long power cuts are now part of UK emergency planning. Here is what happens inside a block, care home or hotel when one lasts more than a few hours.

0 hours

Power off

Lights drop to battery. Magnetic hold-opens should let go, and every fire door they were holding should swing shut on its own closer.

3 hours

Emergency lighting fades

Battery packs are typically rated for three hours where people sleep. Stairs and corridors start to go dark. BS 5266-1

24 hours

The alarm panel runs flat

Standby batteries are commonly sized for about a day. By now residents are using candles, portable heaters, camping stoves and generators. BS 5839-1

48+ hours

What's left is passive

Fire crews are stretched across the area. The only protection still working is a door that closes and seals, and a compartment that keeps fire and smoke where they started.

What we check, building by building

Fire doors
Closers shut fully onto the latch. Gaps, seals, hinges and glazing checked against the door's rating.

Hold-opens
Magnetic hold-opens and automatic doors tested to release when the mains is cut.

Compartments
Risers, service cupboards and roof voids checked for open penetrations that let smoke travel.

Escape routes
Usable in the dark, and clear of storage, combustibles and fuel.

Battery-backed systems
Test records and duration labels for lighting and alarms reviewed, with gaps flagged for your alarm engineer.

Residents
A ready-to-send blackout fire safety notice, supporting your duty to give residents fire safety information.

Book a building

Talk to Dave Gillard, co-director

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A director on site, never a subcontractor.

A prioritised report with photos, graded critical to low.

One firm from start to finish. We quote, carry out and certify any remedial works ourselves.

Priced per building after a short review of its size and layout.

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Battery durations are typical design figures from the British Standards named. Actual durations depend on each system's design and maintenance.