

BE PREPARED For POWER OUTAGES!

The following information will help your clinic be prepared to protect vaccines!

GENERAL PREPARATIONS

- Update and post your clinic's *Protocol for Vaccine Relocation in the Event of Power Failure or Mechanical Difficulty* (binder form 3a).
- Maintain a supply of Styrofoam coolers to transport your vaccines; keep a blank inventory form and temp log in each cooler.
- Fill the freezer with ice packs (full freezers work better).
- Add water bottles to the refrigerator door shelves to maintain temperature stability.
- Designate at least one back-up storage location, preferably with a generator. Pharmacies, hospitals, fire stations and grocery stores are options. A written agreement is a good idea; keep a copy of the agreement in the coolers. Don't use an employee's home as a back up location, as homes are just as likely to be affected by power outages.
- Know where to buy dry ice to transport frozen vaccines, or purchase a VaxiPac for frozen vaccine transport.

DURING A POWER OUTAGE

- **Do not move vaccines if the outage is 3 hours or less.** Call the power company to assess the estimated length of the power outage before deciding to move the vaccine (Puget Sound Energy (888) 225-5773).
- **Keep the refrigerator and/or freezer door(s) closed.** Monitor all temps using the Streck digital thermometer from the outside of the unit.

IF THE OUTAGE LASTS LONGER THAN 3 HOURS and the refrigerator/freezer temperature is warming, pack vaccine for storage or transport.

- Put **refrigerated vaccines** in a Styrofoam cooler with refrigerated cold packs. Ice packs may be used if they are left at room temperature and allowed to "sweat" before placing them into the cooler. **Do NOT let ice packs touch the vaccine directly.** List the contents on an inventory form, and label the cooler with the clinic name and the temperature storage range (35-46F). Pack the cooler as follows: (1) vaccine and thermometer, (2) protective layer, bubble wrap or foam padding, (3) cold packs. **Never use dry ice to transport refrigerated vaccines!**
- **Frozen vaccines** should be packed on dry ice for transport. List contents on an inventory form, and label the cooler with the clinic name and the temperature storage range (+5F or colder).
- VaxiPac units may be used for the transporting frozen vaccine to an alternative location without using dry ice. VaxiPacs are available during power outages at the health department; call 676-4593 during business hours or 715-2588 after hours.
- At the back-up location, ask to assist with the placement of the vaccine to assure the vaccine is correctly stored.

AFTER A POWER OUTAGE

- Return vaccine to its original location and recommended storage temperatures as soon as it is safe.
- Before using the vaccine consult with the Immunization Program 676-4593 to discuss vaccine viability.