



TOP COMPLIANCE (Pty) Ltd

Your Business' Safety Is Our Concern

QSE B-BBEE - Level Four

www.topcompliance.co.za

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Contact details:

Training, Audits and Retail:

Pat: 082 442 8521 (08h00 – 16h30)

p.wessels@topcompliance.co.za

Website: www.topcompliance.co.za

Safety during loadshedding

Tragically loadshedding is here to stay for the foreseeable future. We need to be aware of how we can save lives and property during these times. It is the time to focus on how to keep yourself and your property safe when the power goes out.

The problem is made worse by illegal connections, cable theft, vandalism and most fatal of all negligence, which leads to increased risks in operation. This can be anything from an extended community power outage beyond the planned loadshedding schedule to something more serious like a fatal house fire.

Appliances such as TV's, microwaves, gate motors and much more often fall victim to the surges that occur during loadshedding. The cost of replacing these sensitive pieces of equipment can run into the thousands, and quite often technicalities in your insurance policy may lead to a non-payment from your broker.

Which appliances are affected by loadshedding?

- Electric geyser
- Gas systems that require electricity to ignite the flame
- Electric appliances
- Electric lights
- TV's & Hi-fi's
- Pool pumps
- Electrically motorised security gates
- Electric fences
- Air conditioning
- Alarm clocks that are plugged in
- Electric water pumps

What to do when the power goes off

If you are well prepared your household won't have to be at the mercy of the loadshedding schedule. You can lengthen your period of power and save your appliances by resorting to some these simple measures:

- Unplug all your sensitive electrical equipment such as TV's, media players and fridges.
- Candles - Ensure that you always use a sturdy candle holder and that you keep candles away from flammable materials such as couches, curtains and carpets. Always extinguish the candle as soon as

the power comes back on. Candles are one of the main causes of serious house fires every year, alongside faulty outlets.

- Security - For your safety, learn how to operate your electronic gate manually so that you can safely enter your premises and lock the gate behind you with a padlocked chain. Some electronic gates can malfunction and open automatically when the power goes out. Be aware of this and always check your gate.
- Food - Keeping your fridge and freezer doors closed for as long as possible prevents any cold air from escaping.

The challenge does not end when the national grid is switched back on in fact, this is when most occurrences of shortages and fires start, as well as when most expensive electronic items are damaged severely by power surges.

- When the power comes back on after loadshedding, plugged-in appliances get a surge of current from the national grid. Sensitive equipment is most affected by this microsecond of surge that occurs when the electricity is switched on at the power station. If they are not protected against the extra load of surge coming in through your outlets, appliances can shut down, get damaged or even combust.
- You can buy surge protection devices for Distribution Boards. All Distribution Boards should have a standard surge protector device installed, to be compliant with all national home electrical standards. Class 1 surge protection devices are recommended, as they can also protect against lightning strikes.
- Invest in surge protected plugs for all your sensitive devices. These plugs can divert the extra energy from the surge and protect your items, but they also need to be replaced over time.

General safety tips:

- Never place a generator in an enclosed space without ventilation. The emissions could cause severe breathing problems and the heat from the generator could spark a faulty connection and possibly cause a house fire. In a case such as this, most insurance companies will not pay out and blame it up to 'negligence'.
- Always switch the stove off at the wall, to ensure there is no charge coming through the outlet when the power surges back on.
- Always keep your gas-powered appliances and gas cylinders away from flammable materials and electrical outlets.
- Ensure that your cell phone is always fully charged when power is available.
- Ensure that your vehicle always has fuel in the tank since during power outages, petrol stations cannot pump fuel.
- Keep temporary lighting readily available, e.g. torches, battery powered LED lights, candles, etc. Make sure that you have a fully charged torch and have torches accessible to children in their bedrooms. Be sure to locate these items in places where they will be easy to find in the dark.
- Try to familiarise yourselves with schedules for loadshedding.
- Switch off all electrical appliances during loadshedding.
- Extinguish all open fires made during loadshedding before you leave the area.
- Ensure that you have a serviced fire extinguisher close to your braai area.
- Never make open fires to prepare food near thatched roofs as they are extremely susceptible to ignition by sparks from open flames, both from the inside and outside of the roof.
- Ensure that you have back-up batteries to operate your security gate and alarm system.
- Use paraffin stoves and heaters with great caution.
- Never allow children to use open flames or heating agents during loadshedding.
- Some electronic gates open automatically during power cuts. Ensure that you are aware of this when power gets cut.

- Invest in a portable power bank to charge your phone, you will need it to report any emergency during power cuts.

Impact of loadshedding on road safety

- There is not much that the average person can do about power failures affecting traffic lights and traffic flow. However, the correct driving attitude can prevent a collision or reducing the severity thereof.
- Many people are impatient because they are late, frustrated etc, but your life and that of others is at risk when not taking extra precautions at faulty traffic lights.
- Many other motorists are also stuck/delayed and may be using their cell phones and possibly not concentrating fully on the road. Always make sure other vehicles are stationary before you pull away.

Inadequate street lighting

- Power outages could remove important road safety features such as street lighting.
- This makes it extremely difficult for motorists to spot road hazards such as potholes, debris and even pedestrians on the road surface.
- Good advice would be to slow down and thus increase the time to evade these possible dangers.
- If there is no oncoming traffic it is advisable to drive with your lights on bright to increase the distance of the visible surface.
- One of the road safety slogans is “Be Visible Be Seen!”. Load shedding makes this even more important.
- Turn your vehicle's headlights on to make yourself more visible to other road users, even during daytime.

Safety from criminal elements

- Motorists must be attentive to the dangers of criminals lurking in the dark.
- During loadshedding, it is possible that hijackers and “smash and grab” criminals might see an opportunity for themselves. Be attentive and raise your levels of awareness.

Be prepared and vigilant.

<https://showme.co.za/pretoria/news/safety-tips-to-heed-during-load-shedding/#:~:text=Switch%20off%20all%20electrical%20appliances,on%20during%20a%20power%20cuts>
<https://boksburgadvertiser.co.za/430240/how-to-stay-safe-and-protect-your-appliances-during-load-shedding/>
<https://www.arrivealive.mobi/load-shedding-and-road-safety>
<https://www.buco.co.za/default/protect-yourself-your-appliances-from-loadshedding>

Some of our training courses can be done through our virtual classroom.

Certain types of Risk Assessments and audits will be done by means of virtual site visits using various means of technology to virtually visit the site.

For more information please contact – info@topcompliance.co.za

<https://www.topcompliance.co.za/index.php/products>



Medical equipment	SANS Signage	Legal posters	Personal Protective Equipment

Courses offered by Top Compliance (Pty) Ltd

<https://www.topcompliance.co.za/index.php/skills-development-head/training-calendar>

ONSITE TRAINING			
First Aid Courses:			Accreditation
NEW level 1 – US 119567 - Perform basic life support and first aid procedures	2 days		DEL
NEW level 2 – US 120496 - Provide risk-based primary emergency care/first aid in the workplace.	3 days		DEL
NEW level 3 – US 376480 - Provide first aid as an advanced first responder	3 days		DEL
First aid: Level 1	2 days		No longer recognised
First aid: Level 2	3 days		No longer recognised
First aid: Level 3	3 days		No longer recognised
First aid: Level 1 & 2	3 days		No longer recognised
First aid: Level 2 & 3	3 days		No longer recognised
First aid: Level 1, 2 & 3	5 days		No longer recognised
Child and infant CPR & choking	6 hours		
Adult CPR & choking	6 hours		
Adult CPR & choking and AED	1 day		
Occupational Health and Safety Courses			
OHS Act & SHERQ representative – Legal Liability	1 day		
The Occupational Health and Safety Act & responsibilities of management – Legal Liability	1 day		
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	1 day		
Safety representative course specific for COVID-19 in terms of the OHS Act and Regulation for Hazardous Biological Agents	6 hours		
Food facility health & safety course in terms of R364	6 hours		
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses			

Basic firefighting (Fire marshal)	6 hours	
Basic firefighting with emergency action planning (Fire & Evacuation marshal)	1 day	

ONLINE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM		
Occupational Health and Safety Courses		
Safety representative course specific for COVID-19 in terms of the OHS Act and Regulation for Hazardous Biological Agents		07h45 – 11h00
OHS Act & SHERQ representative – Legal Liability		07h45 – 16h00
The Occupational Health and Safety Act & responsibilities of management – Legal Liability		07h45 – 16h00
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment		07h45 – 15h00
Food facility health & safety course in terms of R364		07h45 – 14h00
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses		
Basic firefighting (Fire Marshal)		07h45 – 13h00
Basic firefighting with emergency action planning (Fire and Evacuation marshal)		07h45 – 15h00