

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A SOLAR STORM

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Follow LU-Alert and the radio on **RTL, 100.7**. A strong solar storm can disturb the power grid, satellites, satellite navigation and phone networks, and the authorities will say what to expect.
- 2** Switch off what you do not need and use as little electricity as you can while the storm lasts. It helps keep the grid running.
- 3** Charge phones, power banks and laptops now, while the power is on.
- 4** Fill bottles, pans and the bathtub with water. Water pumps need electricity, and without them taps and toilets can stop working.
- 5** Fill the car tank or charge the electric car, in case fuel pumps and charging points stop.
- 6** Agree now how your household will find each other if phones and the internet go down: who goes where, and when.
- 7** Keep a paper map and some cash to hand. If the power goes, follow Power is out.

BEFORE

PLAN FOR POWER AND PHONES FAILING TOGETHER

- A solar storm can disrupt several services at once: electricity, mobile networks, the internet and satellite navigation. Plan as if none of them works for a while.
- Write the important phone numbers and addresses on paper, and agree **3** meeting points with your household. Keep the **household plan** printed, not only on your phone.

- Keep paper maps of your area and of the route home from work and school.
- Keep cash in small notes: **€70** per adult and **€30** per child. Cards and cash machines need power and a network.

STOCK THE BASICS

- Water: **4 L** per person per day, for **72 hours**.
- Food you can eat without cooking, **1** torch per person with **2** spare sets of batteries, and a battery or wind-up radio.

- A charged power bank, and your medicines for at least **7 days**. See the **emergency kit checklist**.
- Keep the car at least $\frac{1}{2}$ full.

HOW WARNINGS REACH YOU

- Luxembourg's official sites have no page on solar storms. If one affects the country, expect news on the radio first, then on LU-Alert while the networks work, and on infocrise. The levels are explained on **Alerts and sirens**.

AFTER

- When the power returns, wait before switching things back on. Reconnect the heating first, then the fridge and freezer, then wait **10-15** minutes before the rest.
- Check the food in the fridge and freezer, as described on **Power is out**.
- Until things are back to normal, check routes on a paper map rather than trusting satellite navigation alone.
- Check on neighbours who are older, ill or alone.
- Restock what you used: water, batteries, food, cash, fuel.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- Tell them in plain words what a solar storm does: it can stop the lights, the phones and the internet for a while, and you have a plan for that.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A

DISABILITY

- If you depend on powered medical equipment, agree a backup plan with your doctor now, and tell a neighbour or the building management that you may need help.

WITH PETS

- Include their food and water in your stock, and fill an extra container for them when you fill the bathtub.

IN A FLAT ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR

- Lifts stop and water pressure can fail on the upper floors when the power goes. Fill containers early, and plan for the stairs.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

-  Switch off what you do not need.
-  Fill bottles with water.
-  Listen to the radio for news.
-  Charge your phone and power bank now.
-  Agree where to meet your family.

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