



Alexandria Health Department



Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH
Health Director

REPLY TO:

Environmental Health Division

4480 King Street, Suite 360

Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: (703) 746-4910

Fax: (703) 746-4919

alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalHealth

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GUIDANCE FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS **FOLLOWING A POWER OUTAGE**

Operating Without Electricity

If you do not have electrical power at your food establishment, you must cease all food operations and close until power is restored.

Food Salvage after a Power Outage

Perishable, refrigerated foods such as meats, fish, poultry, and all dairy products that have been without refrigeration and have been above 41°F for more than 2 hours should be discarded.

Any perishable food from the freezer that has thawed for more than 2 hours and is above 41°F should be discarded.

Any food item discarded should be disposed of in well tied double-bagged plastic garbage bags.

After the power returns, it is OK to refreeze frozen foods that still contain ice crystals and are below 41°F. These include meats, fish, vegetables and cheeses.

As a general rule, a well-functioning freezer that remains unopened and is at least half full will keep foods cold for about 24 hours.

When in doubt, throw it out.

**For more information on food safety, contact the
Alexandria Health Department at (703) 746-4910**

**In an emergency, call the
Environmental Health pager number – (703) 612-2705**

KING STREET
4480 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703) 746-4996

CASEY HEALTH CENTER
1200 N. Howard Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 746-4886

ADOLESCENT CLINIC
3701 W. Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703) 746-4776

ARLANDRIA (WIC)
3802 Executive Ave. #D-2
Alexandria, VA 22305
(703) 519-1957

www.alexhealth.com



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