

12 Months of Preparedness

Month 3: Light

Disasters don't have the decency to always occur in the daylight hours. And, many disasters result in power failures. Therefore, light may be the first thing that you need. Where will you be when the lights go out? Where will the nearest source of light be? How many hours and days will you need to provide your own source of light? Almost everyone has battery operated flashlights. However, do they work reliably? Do they have batteries in them? Do you have replacement batteries? Where are the flashlights located; are they near to where you will be when the power fails? LED flashlights are generally more reliable than incandescent bulb flashlights, and are often brighter and have longer battery life. Consider LED lanterns to provide light over a larger area. Power-fail lights that go on for at least a few hours after a power failure are inexpensive and are available at stores like Home Depot, Lowes and BiMart, as well as online at Amazon and emergency supply websites. They often double as handy flashlights. Chemical light sticks are quite inexpensive and can be kept handy when placed in drawers throughout your home. Avoid the inexpensive party toy light sticks; you will want something reliable that puts out a bright and long-lasting light. White light sticks might be easiest to read by. Another option is solar or hand-cranked flashlights. Batteries are not needed and many are combined with a radio-and even a cell phone charger.

Links to some of these items are below as examples, though they are sold many places.

<https://www.walmart.com/search/?query=led%20flashlight>

<https://www.homedepot.com/s/power%2520failure%2520light?NCNI-5>

<https://www.amazon.com/Cyalume-SnapLight-White-Glow-Sticks/dp/B004NBZLJW>

<https://www.skilledsurvival.com/hand-crank-radio/>