

THE LIGHTS STAY ON

Data Centers #11 · Teens 10-15

with Dess, the Infrastructure Guard and Lena Ashgrove of Channel 5



CREDITS

The Lights Stay On · Data Centers #11 · Teen edition (ages 10–15)

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AI-GENERATED ART, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

All characters, the town of Prairie Bend and Channel 5 are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is a coincidence. No real logos are shown. Real institutions are described by role. Every number in this book was checked against public sources before printing; see 'Sources' near the end.

Stay far away from downed lines and report them right away. Never run a portable generator indoors or in a garage.

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THE CREW



DESS

Our lead. Reads the rulebook.



GRIDLINE

Hero of the grid.



COMMONS

Hero of crews. Lantern up.



THE AUDITOR

Sees and reports. Cannot stop anything.

ONE BUILDING LIT



DESS

WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD'S DARK. ONE BUILDING ISN'T. THAT'S NOT LUCK. THAT'S A RULEBOOK.

FACT FILE

Medicare-participating hospitals must implement emergency and standby power systems based on their emergency plan.

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)



GRIDLINE

THE GRID'S DOWN HERE FOR A FEW HOURS. MY JOB NOW: GET IT BACK. THEIR JOB: DON'T NEED ME.



THE RULE

THE AUDITOR

FEDERAL RULE FOR MEDICARE HOSPITALS: EMERGENCY AND STANDBY POWER SYSTEMS, BUILT AROUND THE HOSPITAL'S EMERGENCY PLAN.

FACT FILE

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Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)



CHANNEL 5 · THE CODES

LENA (ON SCREEN)

WHERE GENERATORS SIT AND HOW THEY'RE TESTED FOLLOW FIRE AND SAFETY CODES: NFPA 99, NFPA 110, THE LIFE SAFETY CODE.

FACT FILE

Generator location, inspection, testing and maintenance must follow the Health Care Facilities Code (NFPA 99), NFPA 110 and the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101).

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)

EVERY WEEK



COMMONS

BASIC ROUTINE: INSPECT WEEKLY, RUN IT 30 MINUTES EVERY MONTH.
BORING IS THE POINT.

FACT FILE

Under NFPA 110's basic requirements, a generator is inspected weekly and test-run for 30 minutes monthly.

Source: CMS, "Survey & Certification Group FAQs, Emergency Preparedness Regulation" (round two, revised June 2017, PDF)

THE FUEL PLAN



THE AUDITOR

KEEP FUEL ON SITE? YOU NEED A WRITTEN PLAN TO KEEP POWER RUNNING THROUGH THE EMERGENCY, UNLESS YOU EVACUATE.

FACT FILE

Hospitals with an onsite fuel source for generators must have a plan to keep emergency power running during the emergency, unless they evacuate.

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)

BACKUP LIGHT



DESS

WHAT BACKUP POWER MUST COVER: SAFE TEMPERATURES, EMERGENCY LIGHTING, FIRE ALARMS AND SPRINKLERS, EVEN SEWAGE AND WASTE.

FACT FILE

Policies must cover alternate sources of energy to maintain safe temperatures and storage of provisions, emergency lighting, fire detection/extinguishing/alarm systems, and sewage and waste disposal.

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)



WATER TOO

UNDERTOW

A HOSPITAL WITHOUT WATER OR DRAINS CLOSES AS FAST AS ONE WITHOUT LIGHTS.

FACT FILE

Policies must cover alternate sources of energy to maintain safe temperatures and storage of provisions, emergency lighting, fire detection/extinguishing/alarm systems, and sewage and waste disposal.

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)

PRACTICE



LENA (ON SCREEN)

PLANS GET UPDATED AT LEAST EVERY 2 YEARS AND TESTED AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, INCLUDING A FULL-SCALE COMMUNITY DRILL ANNUALLY.

FACT FILE

The emergency plan, policies and communication plan must be reviewed and updated at least every 2 years; hospitals must run exercises to test the plan at least twice a year, including an annual full-scale community-based exercise, and document drills and real events.

Source: 42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)



6,100 HOSPITALS

THE AUDITOR

REPORTED

6,100 U.S. HOSPITALS. ABOUT 907,000 STAFFED BEDS. OVER 35 MILLION ADMISSIONS A YEAR.

FACT FILE

U.S. hospitals: 6,100 total; 5,121 community hospitals; 907,216 staffed beds; 35,658,583 admissions (2024 survey).

Source: American Hospital Association, "Fast Facts on U.S. Hospitals, 2026" (2024 AHA Annual Survey data; updated Feb 2026)

NEXT DOOR



GRIDLINE

REMEMBER #1? DATA CENTERS KEEP BACKUP POWER TOO. IN A BIG STORM, ASK WHO GETS HELP FIRST.



COMMONS

WHO GETS POWER RESTORED FIRST, AND WHO PAYS FOR STRONGER LINES? NEIGHBORS SHOULD ASK BEFORE THE STORM.

RAIN STOPPING



DESS

THE BRAVEST THING IN THAT BUILDING TONIGHT MIGHT BE A GUY WHO RAN A TEST EVERY MONTH FOR TEN YEARS.

FACT FILE

Under NFPA 110's basic requirements, a generator is inspected weekly and test-run for 30 minutes monthly.

Source: CMS, "Survey & Certification Group FAQs, Emergency Preparedness Regulation" (round two, revised June 2017, PDF)

DAWN · POWER RETURNS



DESS

NEXT: THE NUMBER EVERYONE KNOWS AND NOBODY THINKS ABOUT.
911.

GOTB Consulting works on the infrastructure and procurement behind projects like these.

BY THE NUMBERS

2 TIMES A YEAR

Minimum hospital emergency-plan exercises, including one full-scale community drill. (42 CFR 482.15)

EVERY 2 YEARS

Emergency plan reviewed and updated at least this often. (42 CFR 482.15)

WEEKLY

Generator inspection under NFPA 110 basics. (CMS FAQ)

30 MINUTES

Monthly generator test run. (CMS FAQ)

6,100

U.S. hospitals; 5,121 community hospitals. (AHA, Reported)

907,216

Staffed hospital beds; 35.7 million admissions a year. (AHA, Reported)

TWO SIDES

The strongest case on each side, labeled. Nonpartisan.

HARDEN THE GRID

Bury or strengthen lines so fewer buildings lose power at all.

BACK UP EACH SITE

Generators and fuel plans keep critical buildings running no matter what.

THE TRADE-OFF

Both cost money; neighbors share the bill either way.

WHAT BOTH SHARE

Lights on where it matters most, plans made in the open.

YOUR TURN

Who should get power back first after a storm? _____

POWER WORDS

STANDBY POWER

Backup electricity when the grid fails.

NFPA 710

Code for emergency and standby power systems.

LIFE SAFETY CODE

NFPA 101, fire and building safety rules.

CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION

Rule a hospital must meet to take Medicare.

TABLETOP EXERCISE

A discussion drill around a table.

FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

A drill with real people and equipment.

QUICK QUIZ

1. GENERATOR INSPECTION?

a) Weekly b) Yearly

2. MONTHLY TEST RUN?

a) 30 minutes b) 3 minutes

3. PLAN EXERCISES PER YEAR?

a) At least 2 b) 0

4. U.S. HOSPITALS?

a) About 6,100 b) About 610

ANSWERS

1 a · 2 a · 3 a · 4 a

SOURCES

Full list with fact IDs: FACT_BASE.md and NUMBER_CHECK.md (GOTB internal).

42 CFR 482.15

42 CFR 482.15, "Condition of participation: Emergency preparedness" (hospitals), via the eCFR API (the eCFR web page blocks automated fetches)

CMS

CMS, "Survey & Certification Group FAQs, Emergency Preparedness Regulation" (round two, revised June 2017, PDF)

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

American Hospital Association, "Fast Facts on U.S. Hospitals, 2026" (2024 AHA Annual Survey data; updated Feb 2026)

ABOUT GOTB CONSULTING

WHO WE ARE

A Chicago firm working on infrastructure and procurement for the systems communities depend on.

DATA CENTERS

Siting, delivery and community questions.

POWER

Grid connections, substations and lines.

WATER

Supply, treatment and cooling.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, pipes and public spaces.

THE END



THE STORM PASSES. THE TEST THAT RAN EVERY MONTH DID ITS JOB.

Next time: more from the Infrastructure Guard.

GOTB CONSULTING • CHICAGO

Data centers • Power • Water • Public works

AI-generated art, fictional characters