

Winter 2022 – Possible Fuel Crisis

Government's Position on energy shortages

The Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG) has been informed of the following regarding potential energy shortages this coming winter:

1. The margins of available gas/electricity may be tight; however, the government has taken all available steps with providers, including extra supplies, and have planned for all outcomes.
2. Reasonable worst case scenario planning has been undertaken, but it is up to all sectors to prepare their own resilience plans.
3. The following is based on the reasonable worst case scenario planning, they are **not** predictions:
 - **Gas** – there may be an impact on 'industrial heavy gas users', of which there are 2,600 across the UK. Crematoria do not fall into this category, so it is not anticipated that there will be gas 'outages' for crematoria.
 - **Electricity** – gas generated electricity will have to be cut back. It is anticipated that during 20 days over 2 months, 35% of customers could be affected at any one time.
 - Electricity will be switched off for 2 – 4 hours on a rolling basis, predominantly during the evening. But it could be at other times and for longer periods.

Tips for helping to combat potential issues

1. Talk to your energy providers as soon as possible to find out what their plans are, and to let them know of your concerns about keeping your services running. If energy contracts are handled centrally or corporately, inform the contract manager of the importance of maintaining the deceased management process to protect public health and to ensure people can continue to attend funerals.
2. Talk to your local resilience forum (contact details can be found here - [Local resilience forums: contact details - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) and make sure they have included your services as part of their resilience plans.
3. Develop a continuity plan to take account of possible planned fuel outages. Plans can include using a generator to keep essential electricity supplies going short term; ensuring all work is completed ahead of the outage; reducing the number of funerals booked for days when an outage is due (subject to sufficient notice being given); planning for a longer working day when outages are likely, possibly using a split shift system.
4. Adopt as many energy saving solutions as possible and ensure that your teams are aware of what they need to do, eg turn off lights when not in the room; turn electrical appliances off stand-by when not in use; fill the kettle with the amount of water needed rather than to the

top; reduce the heating by 1 or 2 degrees; keep doors and windows closed when the heating is on. These measures should be carried out in both the workplace and at home.

5. Crematoria should consider cremating as efficiently as possible, which may include holding over and using a shift system to complete cremations in as few cremators as possible. Applicants should be made aware that holding over may happen, eg through notification on the preliminary notice of cremation form.
6. Crematoria operators need to be aware that automatic start and stop functions on cremators will be adversely affected if the electricity supply is turned off for any length of time. (NB – the use of auto-stop is not condoned – see guidance [here](#)).

The ICCM and FBCA will continue to inform members as soon as any new information is received.

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