Public information, as of January 2026

Well Prepared for an Emergency

Information on the Topic of „Blackout“

Energy saving and preparedness concern us all. Everyone can contribute to conserving resources and preventing potential supply shortages. The city of Alzenau is implementing a range of measures for this purpose – from adjusted heating temperatures and LED lighting with nighttime shut-off to new buildings based on low-tech principles.

Even though prolonged, widespread power outages (blackouts) are very unlikely, the recent events in Berlin have shown that it is still wise to be well prepared for such a scenario.

Back in 2022, the city of Alzenau compiled a flyer with important information for you – this has now been updated. We have compiled all the information and tips for you on the following pages.

Please keep this information in a safe place.

What is a blackout – and what is not?

BLACKOUT: A prolonged power outage, usually affecting a large region. This is often accompanied by failures in infrastructure and supply systems (e.g. communication, water, gas).

(SHORT-TERM) DISRUPTION: A local outage that can usually be resolved quickly.

To determine what type of outage you may be experiencing, observe your surroundings (street lighting, neighboring buildings) and check whether telephone, radio, or internet services are working.

How can I get current information?

- Warning apps such as KATWARN or NINA (BBK)
- Radio (battery- or solar-powered), car radio
- Social media / website of the City of Alzenau
  www.alzenau.de
  www.facebook.com/stadtalzenau
  www.instagram.com/stadtalzenau
- If applicable, (mobile) loudspeaker announcements

Behavior during outages

POWER OUTAGE

- Always keep a flashlight within reach.
- Switch off all appliances, especially heaters, hot plates, and stoves. Leave one lamp switched on to recognize when power returns.
- Disconnect electric vehicles from the wallbox.

GAS SUPPLY OUTAGE

- Close the gas shut-off valve at the house connection.
- Never tamper with the gas installation yourself; also consult a certified specialist when restarting the system.
- CO detectors: Ensure the installation and maintenance of carbon monoxide detectors in advance.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY OUTAGE

- Close all water taps.
- Keep a supply of bottled drinking water.
- If instructed: boil drinking water.
- Be prepared for the toilet flush not to work.

IMPORTANT: Stay calm and act sensibly! In all cases, check whether your neighbors are also affected, tune in to regional radio stations, and listen for any loudspeaker announcements from the fire department.

What should you have at home for at least two weeks?

Plan as if for a 14-day camping holiday within your own home:

- Water: The goal of the Spessartgruppe long-distance water supply association is to maintain drinking water supply for as long as possible. Nevertheless, an emergency supply of 2.5 liters per person per day should be kept. If applicable, a water filtration system (self-sufficient, without electricity).
- Food: Non-perishable foods (e.g. jars/canned food, grains and legumes, pasta, rice, crispbread, sugar, long-life milk, etc.).
- Cash (small bills and coins). Recommendation: the amount of two weekly grocery shops.
- Medicine: Home first-aid kit and personally essential medications (e.g. insulin), as well as a first-aid box.
- Hygiene products
- Flashlights, possibly battery- or solar-powered lamps, candles, matches/lighter
- Radio (battery- or solar-powered) or a hand-crank radio
- Spare batteries, power bank
- Camping stove, fuel paste
- If applicable, supplies for pets (water and food)
- If applicable, wood for heating/fireplace, sleeping bags, blankets, and warm clothing (remember to ventilate regularly!)
- If applicable, a fueled/charged car

Additional practical tips

- Charge batteries in good time: Laptop, mobile phone, power bank; solar-powered chargers are helpful.
- UPS / emergency power for small devices: An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) or UPS power bank can keep routers, NAS, or PCs running in an orderly manner and prevent data loss.
- Documents and numbers in analog form: Keep important contacts (family, neighbors, family doctor, city/utilities) on paper.
- Fire protection and CO safety: Keep smoke detectors, CO detectors, and fire extinguishers ready; never grill indoors.
- Neighborhood assistance: Coordinate who may need special support (children, elderly, people in need of care).

Emergency locations („Leuchttürme") in the City of Alzenau

In an emergency, after about 15 minutes the fire stations in the Alzenau city area will be staffed, as especially during prolonged power outages the telephone network and mobile communications may also fail.

Staffing the beacon locations ensures that emergency calls to the fire brigade, emergency medical services, or police are always possible. The fire stations are equipped with emergency power to ensure operational readiness.

Volunteer Fire Brigade Albstadt
Borngasse 8, 63755 Alzenau

Volunteer Fire Brigade Michelbach-Kälberau
Gieseweg 10, 63755 Alzenau

Former Fire Station Kälberau
Karl-Amberg-Straße 8a, 63755 Alzenau

Volunteer Fire Brigade Alzenau
Mühlweg 7, 63755 Alzenau

Volunteer Fire Brigade Wasserlos
Friedhofstraße 5, 63755 Alzenau

Volunteer Fire Brigade Hörstein
Gerichtsplatzstraße 18, 63755 Alzenau

If a prolonged outage is foreseeable, **Prischoßhalle Alzenau** (Prischoßstraße 57, 63755 Alzenau) will be prepared for use as a warming and care center.

Warning systems for the population

Modular Warning System

To supplement the warning infrastructure of the federal states, a powerful and highly available federal warning and communication system has been developed. Warning messages can be disseminated via as many channels as possible to reach a large portion of the population, for example via:

WARNING APP NINA:
www.bbk.bund.de/DE/Warnung-Vorsorge/Warn-App-NINA/warn-app-nina_node.html

WARNING SYSTEM KATWARN:
www.katwarn.de/anmeldung-app.php

This information can also be found on the website of the City of Alzenau (www.alzenau.de/katastrophenschutz). In an emergency, we will also provide information via our social media channels (if technically possible).

contact

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