

WHEN SHOULD I CLOSE MY FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT?

It is not safe to operate your food service without lights, refrigeration, ventilation or hot water.



POWER OUTAGES



1. Close your Establishment

2. Write down the time when the power outage occurred.

Your food safety "time clock" starts ticking when the power goes out.

If you are unsure of when the power outage occurred, and you find your food above 41F, REMEMBER, "When in doubt, Throw it out"!!

Tip: If you are present during a power outage, keep refrigeration units closed as much as possible to help keep foods cold.

3. Begin taking food temperature readings immediately.

Have a properly calibrated food thermometer ready at all times.

Keep a time/temperature record for every item checked in hot holding and cold holding units.



135°F



HOT HELD FOODS

Once food is found to be below 135°F and cannot be properly cooled according to the Food Code parameters (135°F to 70°F within 2 hours, and then 70°F to 41°F within 4 hours), DISCARD IT! Food that is found to be below 135°F for less than 2 hours may be reheated throughout to 165°F for hot holding.

Record the time when food rises above 41F. If food cannot be cooled back to 41°F within 4 hours, DISCARD IT!! If you are unsure of when the power outage occurred, and you find your food above 41°F, REMEMBER, "When in doubt, Throw it out"!!

COLD HELD FOODS



41°F

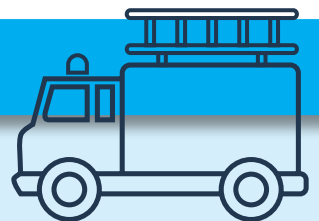


FIRE

Call 911!! Customer and employee safety are first priority.

Even a small, contained fire can temporarily cause unsafe food service conditions.

The Fire Department will coordinate an assessment by your local health inspector to assist with determining what items are safe for use in your establishment after a fire.



FLOODING AND SEWAGE BACK-UPS



If wastewater or flood water has backed up into your establishment:

Close your establishment and contact the Health Department for further guidance. Call a licensed plumber to remove blockages in drain lines.

Call a sewage pumping contractor if your septic tank is overfilled.



MECKLENBURG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 980-314-1620

