PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Has the UK ever had a national blackout? Past power cuts explained

No. Great Britain's modern grid has never had a complete national shutdown. The largest cuts were regional: about 1 million customers on 9 August 2019, most back within an hour; about 1 million in Storm Arwen in 2021, with some rural homes off for over a week; and about 61,000 properties in Lancaster in 2015. The 1970s cuts were planned rota cuts.

- [ ] Keep a battery or wind-up FM radio with spare batteries, and note local frequencies
- [ ] Keep a small float of cash in notes and coins at home
- [ ] Have a torch or lantern for each main room, not candles
- [ ] Keep a warm sleeping bag or blankets for each person
- [ ] Keep a camping stove for outdoor use only, with enough gas for a few days
- [ ] Fit an audible EN 50291 carbon monoxide alarm
- [ ] Agree a plan for finding family members if phones are down
- [ ] Join the Priority Services Register if you qualify
- [ ] Know to call 105 to report a cut
- [ ] Keep a power bank charged for phones