PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

What is a blackout? UK power cuts, brownouts and the grid explained

A blackout is a loss of electricity across a wide area, such as a region or a whole country. A power cut is any loss of supply, usually local and over within hours. A brownout is a drop in voltage where the power stays on but weakens. The National Risk Register rates a national outage in Great Britain as low likelihood but very high impact, and none has been forecast.

- [ ] Find your fuse box and check you can reach it in the dark
- [ ] Look up your network operator and load block letter at powercut105.com
- [ ] Save 105 (or 03457 643643 in Northern Ireland) in your phone
- [ ] Keep one torch per person with spare batteries beside it
- [ ] Own a battery or wind-up FM radio
- [ ] Keep a power bank charged
- [ ] Store 3 litres of drinking water per person per day for three days
- [ ] Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm
- [ ] Check your kit every six months