

Loadshedding Safety Checklist

DISCLAIMER:

This guide is intended for **general safety awareness and risk reduction** during loadshedding within the South African context. It does not replace professional electrical, fire safety, or security advice. Conditions and risks vary by household and environment. Bilnor Staffing Solutions accepts no liability for actions taken based on this guide. All electrical work should comply with South African regulations and be performed by qualified professionals where required.

Loadshedding has become a regular part of daily life in South Africa, increasing risks related to **fire, crime, electrical hazards, and personal safety**. Reduced lighting, disabled security systems, and alternative power sources can create new dangers if not managed correctly. This guide provides a **practical, easy-to-follow checklist** to help households prepare for loadshedding, stay safe during outages, and restore systems safely once power returns.

Key Risks During Loadshedding

Common risks include:

- Increased criminal activity due to darkness and inactive security systems
- Fire hazards from candles, gas appliances, and generators
- Electrical damage when power returns
- Reduced visibility inside and outside the home
- Communication challenges during extended outages

Preparation significantly reduces these risks.

Before Loadshedding: Preparation Checklist

Home & Personal Safety

- Torches, rechargeable lights, or headlamps charged and accessible
- Power banks and phones fully charged
- Emergency numbers easily accessible
- First-aid kit stocked and reachable

Security

- Alarm system has backup battery and is tested
- Electric fences and gates checked for backup power
- External solar or battery lights operational
- Doors and windows locked before dark

Appliances & Electrical

- Sensitive electronics unplugged or protected by surge protectors
- Stoves, heaters, and irons switched off before outage
- Backup power equipment inspected

During Loadshedding: Safety Checklist

Lighting & Fire Safety

- Use LED, rechargeable, or solar lights where possible
- Candles kept away from curtains, children, and pets
- Candles never left unattended
- Gas appliances used in well-ventilated areas only

Security Awareness

- Minimise movement in dark areas
- Avoid opening doors to unknown visitors
- Stay alert to unusual noises or activity
- Keep phones close and charged

Children & Vulnerable Persons

- Children supervised at all times
- Elderly or disabled persons checked regularly
- Clear walkways to prevent trips and falls

Generator & Backup Power Safety

- Generators operated outdoors only
- Never run generators in enclosed spaces
- Fuel stored safely away from living areas
- Extension leads in good condition
- Inverters and UPS systems not overloaded by having too many appliances plugged in

When Power Returns: Safety Checklist

- Switch appliances back on gradually
- Check for unusual smells or sounds
- Reset alarm systems and electric fences
- Recharge lights and power banks
- Inspect backup systems for faults

Community & Communication

- Coordinate with neighbours during outages
- Share information on suspicious activity
- Know local emergency and security contacts for e.g. community watch
- Follow official loadshedding schedules where possible

Loadshedding safety is about **preparation, calm decision-making, and awareness**. Simple habits and checklists can significantly reduce risk to people, property, and equipment. Prepared households cope better. Informed households stay safer.

Bilnor Staffing Solutions

Promoting practical safety and preparedness in the South African environment.