Continuity of Operations: Emergency Supplies

SUMMARY
Government agencies must be equipped with adequate supplies to ensure basic survival and continuity of operations during an emergency. Emergency management agencies should provide guidance to municipal agencies on the composition and storage of emergency supply kits for both the agency and individuals.

DESCRIPTION
During the August 2003 power outage affecting much of the Eastern United States and Canada, many municipal agencies in New York City lacked adequate emergency supplies on hand. While the shortage was not severe enough to cause serious problems for continuity of government operations, the New York Emergency Response Task Force noted, “limited availability of these resources could cause larger problems in other types of events.” The Task Force also noted that adequate amounts of cash were not on hand to procure needed supplies.

In its report to the Mayor, the Task Force recommended that the Office of Emergency Management build on prior readiness campaigns by providing all city employees with updated guidance on preparedness at work. This guidance should include information on the type and quantity of emergency supplies that should be kept on hand. The information should also focus on the need for “go bags,” emergency supply kits kept in multiple locations.

CITATION

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