

## RELATED TERMS

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## PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

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# LESSON LEARNED

## Large-Scale Building Collapse: Supplying Temporary Electrical Power for Nighttime Operations

### SUMMARY

Following a large-scale building collapse, electrical power poles, lines, and circuits in and around the remaining structure may be irreparably damaged. For safety reasons, power to the area may need to be shut-off. Consequently, incident command (IC) may need to coordinate with local power companies to ensure that temporary electrical power is supplied, so that response and recovery operations can continue throughout the night.

### DESCRIPTION

At 9:02 am on April 19, 1995, a massive terrorist bomb ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, collapsing major portions of the structure. The explosion also caused significant damage to power poles, lines, and circuits in and around the collapsed building. Live wires and electrical arcs posed immediate safety risks. Recognizing these risks, Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) quickly shut-off electric power to the Murrah Building and several other damaged buildings in the area.

OG&E then coordinated with IC to ensure that temporary electrical power would be supplied so that search and rescue operations could continue around the clock. OG&E erected new power poles and installed floodlights to illuminate the collapsed structure. OG&E also connected power to high-intensity light towers supplied by local contractors, the military, and the Oklahoma City Airport. These measures ensured that search and rescue operations could continue throughout the night.



*Temporary power lines and poles, floodlights, and light towers supplied power and light for nighttime operations.*

Following a large-scale building collapse, incident command should recognize that electrical power may need to be shut-off at the incident site. Incident command should be prepared to coordinate with the local power companies to ensure that temporary electrical power is supplied for nighttime operations.

### CITATION

- The City of Oklahoma City. *Final Report: Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing, April 19, 1995*. July 1996. ([LLIS.gov ID# 9849](#))

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