



NEW YORK CITY

Office of Emergency Management

## NYContinuity

Emergency Management Newsletter for Businesses

NYC OEM  
August 2009

Welcome to the fifth issue of the **NYContinuity** newsletter, a monthly publication to help you prepare for emergencies, strengthen your continuity plans, update you on emergency management news, and inform you about events and resources available to businesses in New York City.

This month is the sixth anniversary of the 2003 power outage that affected the entire Northeast. Planning for power outages is the focus of this month's continuity feature, and Con Edison, a major distributor of electricity to New Yorkers and a partner of OEM, occupies the guest spotlight.

August's special feature is the "2009 H1N1 Private Sector Information-Sharing Survey" issued by OEM and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Your participation in this survey will help us identify how we can better serve your organization before and during an H1N1 outbreak.

**NYContinuity** is a newsletter for small business owners and continuity professionals brought to you by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

### Continuity Feature: You Have the Power



City-wide power outages like the one that occurred in August of 2003 are extremely rare. But smaller, localized disruptions, though infrequent, may affect businesses and organizations in New York City, especially in the summertime when air conditioning units draw heavily from the grid.

When formulating plans, it is important to consider how power outages could affect your business. What processes require electricity? What services or functions do you need to maintain if the power is out for an hour or two? What if it is out for several days?

If the power goes out, contact your electricity provider (contact [Con Edison](#) by calling 1-800-75-CONED; contact [LIPA/National Grid](#) by calling 1-800-490-0075). Be sure to disconnect or turn off all appliances before service is restored. If several appliances automatically start up at once, they may overload electrical circuits. If you work with food, keep refrigerators and freezers closed as much as possible. Stacking items closely together inside the freezer will help them stay colder longer.

#### Emergency Generators

Another option is purchasing an emergency generator. Depending on the resources of your organization, the cost of the appropriate generator, and your assessment of the potential risks and losses involved in a power outage, this may or may not be a good solution for your business.

If you are considering a generator, determine the essential equipment that you will need to power. You will need to know the amount of voltage and wattage that these appliances require to determine the specific model you should purchase. You can read Con Edison's suggestions regarding emergency generators in the Guest Spotlight below.

If you install a generator, be sure that it is working properly and that you are following all safety instructions provided by the manufacturer. Malfunctioning or improperly used generators can damage equipment or lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

For more information about safely operating a generator, visit the US [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).

### Guest Spotlight: Con Edison

The Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison) is a major provider of electric service in the New York metropolitan area and a strong partner of OEM. Con Edison also provides natural gas and steam services to the residents and businesses of New York City.

OEM's Watch Command remains in contact with the utility provider 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The two organizations share information about potential outages so that the City may support residents as quickly and effectively as possible in the event of a service disruption.

Con Edison's website has a wealth of information related to electricity service, safety, and conservation. Of particular interest from a continuity perspective is the storm central page, [www.coned.com/sm](http://www.coned.com/sm), which includes a [map of current outages](#) that could increase your organization's situational awareness.

Con Edison also offers guidance to those businesses looking to install generators. Click [here](#) and follow the links for more information about generator-related incentives that may be available to your business, applications for generators, and different types of configurations that businesses may employ in connecting a generator.

Last but not least, if you have problems with your electric service, there are a number of ways to get in touch with Con Edison to report the disruption and/or to check on the status of your request. [Find out how to contact Con Edison](#).

### 2009 H1N1 Private Sector Information-Sharing Survey



As New York City prepares for a potential return of the H1N1 virus, OEM and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are developing new ways to communicate with the private sector.

Help us better serve your organization before and during an H1N1 outbreak by [taking this survey](#).

September is...

# National Preparedness Month

OEM will be kicking off National Preparedness Month on September 2 at five sites across the City, including the flagship site at Times Square. For more information about special events in each of the five boroughs, stay tuned for next month's issue.

If you have any topics or themes that you would like to see covered or any suggestions for how we may improve this newsletter, please send an e-mail to [publicprivate@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:publicprivate@oem.nyc.gov). To see if your topic has been covered in a past issue, please visit the [NYContinuity Archive](#).

Sincerely,  
The **NYContinuity** Team

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