**GUIDANCE FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS FOLLOWING A POWER OUTAGE**

**Operating Without Electricity**

If you do not have electrical power at your food establishment, you must cease all food operations and close until power is restored and call the Health Department at (703) 792-6310, option 1. Leave a message indicating the name of your business, street address and the time you lost power. You must remain closed until normal power is restored or until you can switch over to generator power.

**Food Salvage after a Power Outage**

Perishable, refrigerated foods such as meats, fish, poultry, and all dairy products that have been without refrigeration and have been above 41°F for more than 2 hours should be discarded.

Any perishable food from the freezer that has thawed for more than 2 hours and is above 41°F should be discarded.

Any food item discarded should be disposed of in well tied double-bagged plastic garbage bags.

After the power returns, it is OK to refreeze frozen foods that still contain ice crystals and are below 41°F. This includes meats, fish, vegetables and cheeses.

As a general rule, a well-functioning freezer that remains unopened and is at least half full will keep foods cold for about 24 hours.

***When in doubt, throw it out.***