Issue 12: Emergency Lighting

If the power goes out for any extended time, emergency lighting will become very important. Our recommendations in prioritized order, are:

**Indoor or Outdoor**

1. Crank or wind-up lights. The LED ones provide the longest time between wind-ups. These are a good foundation for your lighting backup. Since no batteries are needed, these should last through multiple pandemic waves.

2. Solar lights. Battery-powered, but convenient since the sun does the battery re-charging.

3. Lights/lanterns that use batteries. These come in a variety of shapes from the traditional flashlight, to battery-powered camp lanterns.

**WARNING** : *If used indoors, provide ventilation with a window or door open 1 inch, with the lamp/lantern placed close to this opening*

**WARNING** : Place all open flame emergency lamps/lanterns on a fireproof surface

4. Oil lamps/lanterns that use wicks. Proven technology. Wicks are more durable than mantle-type lights. Two issues are smell and amount of light.
   - A high grade kerosene or lamp oil will minimize the smell
   - The “cold blast” type (some Dietz lanterns, for example) provides brighter light than does the “hot blast” or “dead flame” lanterns. See www.lanternnet.com/faqs.htm for more information.

5. Candles. Last choice, since they are a fire hazard. Use an appropriate safe glass-enclosed holder. Improve lighting by placing in front of a mirror, or piece of tin foil

**Outdoor only**

1. Lamps/lanterns that use propane or coleman fuel/white gas.

**Essential Supplies**

- Batteries - lots of them. Consider a solar charger and rechargeable batteries
- Matches - wooden, strike anywhere
- Fuel - check with your fire department for safe storage

For more information, or to participate in local pandemic flu planning, contact your local Emergency Manager.