

LIGHT IN DISASTERS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOPIC

Lighting is one of the most essential pieces of an emergency kit. While most people are familiar with flashlights, there are other options to consider. Never leave light sources burning or turned on when you are asleep (except glow sticks) or not present. Remember to store extra fuel or batteries, wicks, mantles, globes, and other spare parts specific to your light sources in your emergency kit. Don't wait until an emergency to learn how to use your light sources.

Light Source	Fuel and Ignition Sources	Safe for Children?	Pros	Cons
Flashlight, headlamp, lantern	Batteries, crank	Yes	Easy to find, easy to use	Require batteries or extensive cranking, not safe if gas leak due to tiny spark when turned on
Glow Stick	Self-contained chemical reaction	Yes	Easy to use, safe in nearly any condition or near gas leak	Limited light, limited duration, one-time use
Candle	Matches or lighter	Yes, if monitored	Easy to store, also produces heat	Fire hazard, cannot be left unattended, not safe if gas leak
Oil Lamp	Oil, wick, matches or lighter, mantle	No	Less volatile than gas lamps, produces some heat	Glass globes are easily broken, oil may solidify in cooler temperatures
Gas Lamp	Wick or pressure, kerosene (or gasoline, propane, butane, etc.)	No	Can burn a variety of fuel depending on lamp, produces some heat	May require a fuel that is hard to find
Solar Lamp	Sunlight	Yes	Free, clean, safe fuel; may also power other devices	May take many hours to produce charge, especially in cloudy weather

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