

**The majority of commonly recommended vaccines require storage temperatures of 35°F - 46°F and must not be exposed to freezing temperatures. To insure that your supplies of vaccines are properly maintained, do you have a back-up plan (such as a generator or alternate storage) in cases of electrical outages, ice storms, etc.?**

1. No we don't! However, we had extended power outage during this last ice storm (January 2007). We do have a continuous temperature recorder in our freezer and fridge. We were clearly out of safe range for many of our vaccines. We called all the manufacturers and found out that most were okay at room temperature for a day or two.

2. We have a generator ready to go, checked out and fueled up with extra fuel available.

3. We have a back-up plan posted on the refrigerator where the vaccines are stored. I did lose electricity recently because vandals stole the copper wiring to my office!! Everything would have been okay, but unfortunately, the back-up plan was not read properly, and I lost several thousand dollars worth of vaccines. Fortunately the state was gracious and replaced my VFC stock, but of course, I had to replace all the commercial stock that was destroyed. Make sure all staff members understand that they are to read the back-up plan and follow it to the letter!!! Posting it in plain site is clearly not enough. You might even consider doing a mock "vaccine disaster drill" to make sure they are on their toes. I learned the hard way.