

Heading: Things people normally don't think about, but should.

It was Thursday, August the 14th 2003 exactly 4:07pm. My routine, at the time, was to cash my paycheck at The Chase Bank Branch on Broadway and W167th Street. From there I would walk the two blocks to Walgreens, to load my entire paycheck (a little over \$1700) onto my Green Dot Master card.

This particular Thursday was a bit eerie and I could not figure out why. As I walked back to my job @ New York City Presbyterian Hospital, The traffic was abnormally congested, and the frequent honk from cab drivers seemed to increase tenfold. Upon reaching the building I attempted to swipe my card and noticed the small red L.E.D was out, as I peered into the building I also noticed the building lights were out, suddenly I swung around and finally noticed the traffic lights were also out and thus the reason for all the extra honking- NYC had just entered the nation's worst power outage in history.

Slightly panicked, after I just loaded all of my money onto this plastic card and now I cannot access it. I felt vulnerable and powerless. In spite of, I remained calm. due in part to my Emergency Preparedness training, which taught me to always keep a small denomination of cash on me "Just In Case".

One hour later, after work. I managed to catch a southbound bus to 42nd street Grand Central Station, I then proceeded to walk 3.63 miles to, and over the Manhattan Bridge, Then another 2.55 miles home.

Did I mention we were in the midst of a heat wave? With temperatures in the mid 90's Hazy Hot and Humid with no Electricity to run an AC or fan this made a difficult situation worse. Compounding this situation, obviously my local grocery store and supermarket also did not have any power and out of fear of looting –closed their stores immediately after the power shut off. So if you were not already prepared with batteries, candles or flash lights.. You had to sit in the sweltering heat in the dark.

Thanks to preparations made days and weeks prior, our short inconvenience was not as miserable as it could have been. Situations like this can happen ANYTIME, so do whatever you need to do to make sure you and your family are "Prepared".

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