

## Samoa power outages

Get the latest information on power outage schedules in different regions of Samoa prepared for possible power outages by planning ahead and taking steps to reduce discomfort.

The ongoing power outages in the country have continued to cause significant disruptions across multiple sectors, with the Ministry of Health highlighting the urgent need for reliable electricity to maintain essential services.

APIA, SAMOA -- Residents in several parts of Upolu are experiencing scheduled power outages as the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) undertakes critical maintenance work involving the rearrangement of electrical poles. This essential infrastructure project is aimed at ensuring the continued reliability and safety of the electricity supply, particularly during the rainy and windy seasons when lines can be affected by nearby trees.

The affected areas include Afiamalu, Tiavi, Siumu, and Maninoa, where the EPC has been working diligently to minimise disruptions. The EPC stresses the importance of these maintenance works for the safety and efficiency of the electrical system, especially considering the risks posed by the proximity of trees to power lines during adverse weather conditions.

Despite the challenges posed by the rainy weather, the EPC's workforce remains committed to carrying out these vital services. The Corporation recognises the critical role of electricity in every aspect of daily life, from households to schools, churches, and businesses, and is working tirelessly to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Residents and businesses in the affected areas are advised to plan accordingly for the temporary power outages and are thanked for their patience and understanding during this period of essential maintenance. The EPC assures the public that all efforts are being made to complete the work efficiently to minimise inconvenience and ensure a safer and more reliable power supply for all.

The General Manager of Samoa's Electric Power Corporation has confirmed that Samoa's power supply is in a State of Emergency; and that the nation should prepare for more power cuts and a nation-wide rationing of electricity supply.

The whole of Upolu experienced an unexpected power outage for several hours on Monday afternoon when lightning damaged two of the four generators at Fiaga Diesel Power Plant, which generates 85 million kilowatts per hour annually, which is 65% of Samoa's national power generation.

Speaking at a press conference this afternoon Tologat? Tile Tuimalealiifano confirmed that the Fiaga Power



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Station had been directly struck by lightning, causing extensive damage to the diesel power generators.

A Meteorologist with the Samoa Met Services, Silipa Mulitalo confirmed that heavy thunderstorms and lightning had been forecasted over Samoa on Monday afternoon and the worst of it did hit at about 3pm.

&#8220;Sa i luga lava o le tatou forecast uila ma faititili mo le Aso Gafua lea 27 Ianuari 2020, ae sa&#8217;o lelei lea tulaga ona e fai si malolosi o uila ma faititili o le aoauli lea po&#8217;o le 3pm local time, e tusa ma matou fa&#8217;amaumauga i taimi na fa&#8217;atupulaia ai thunderstorm clouds i luga o le atunu&#8217;u&#8221;.

The EPC General Manager said the disruption has left &#8220;only two generators operating at Fiaga and seven hydro power plants&#8221; which according to Tologat? is not enough to adequately supply Upolu.

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