

March 7, 2022 LeeCARES Net Training: You Need to Carry a Flashlight

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You need to carry a flashlight on your person every day. I am shocked at how many people do not have one readily at hand. It is true that most of our cellphones have a very good light available and they can come in quite handy in a pinch. However, we prioritize our phones for other uses that can hinder the use of that light. Having an EDC light available is an incredibly important utility. From the perspective of ARES, having an alternative light source is even more important.

Power outages occur without notice. An electrical blackout can catch you at home, on the road, or in an unfamiliar building. Regardless of where you are, having an EDC flashlight at the ready ensures you can easily guide yourself to a safe location.

Additionally, if the power outage was caused by a tripped circuit breaker or another issue requiring personal inspection, having a flashlight handy will allow you to immediately remedy the problem.

Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, floods - you get the picture - can all knock out a power grid. And being trapped in the dark in a disaster zone can compound the danger exponentially. Even a non-emergency blackout can be risky, not to mention inconvenient, if you don't have a flashlight handy.

Lost car keys, searching for items in a dark closet, looking underneath your car seat, walking down unfamiliar darkened stairs, trying to locate a leak under a sink—if you were to take a mental inventory of the number of times that supplemental lighting would have made a routine task easier, chances are that those occurrences would be numerous. We've all dropped that one important piece of a project and had to search the dark crevasses to find it. Having a flashlight at the ready is just as much a time saver and a safety device.

An EDC flashlight will allow you to safely navigate any poorly lit setting. From parking lots, trails, and alleys, having a good light allows you to identify hazards and possible threats. It can even be used to temporarily blind a threat if necessary.

For many people, the time when they most regret not having a reliable light source at the ready is when they encounter a vehicle or roadside emergency.

Changing a flat tire at night or trying to diagnose a problem under the hood without adequate lighting is not only difficult, but it can also be dangerous. Likewise, if your vehicle strands you on a lonely stretch of road, having access to an adequate light source can help you to signal for help from passers-by.

Carry as large and bright of a light as you can comfortably carry on your person. Whether in a pocket, on a keychain, on a belt or in a bag, keep a light where it can be instinctively accessed. Today's LED technology provides us with some incredible lights in small form factors and rechargeable options. Choose a light that fits your budget and lighting needs.

The need to access a reliable light source can happen at any time. This can take place in your home, in your vehicle, at work—anywhere that you happen to be when regular light sources stop functioning or fail to provide adequate illumination.

I have several lights that I use regularly. From my early morning chores to a variety of tasks during my day, I use my flashlight more than any tool I have.