



POWER OUTAGE

The filter, heater, and air pump stopped, and the aquarium surface is no longer moving.

PROTECT OXYGEN FIRST. INSPECT BEFORE RESTART.

DBC
AQUATICS

RESCUE. SOLVE. PREVENT.

AT A GLANCE

O₂

RESTORE OXYGEN

Battery pump or manual aeration first.

0

STOP FEEDING

Reduce oxygen demand and added waste.

FILTER

KEEP MEDIA WET

Protect bacteria while flow is off.

TEMP

CHECK TEMPERATURE

Stabilize gradually; do not chase it.

OUTAGE RESCUE - DO THIS IN ORDER

1

CREATE SURFACE MOVEMENT

Start a battery or USB air pump. With no pump, scoop aquarium water and pour it back from above the surface.

2

REDUCE DEMAND

Stop feeding and switch off automatic feeders. Keep the aquarium calm and skip nonessential lighting.

3

PROTECT THE FILTER

Keep media wet. For a long outage, inspect stagnant filters before sending trapped water back into the aquarium.

4

STABILIZE TEMPERATURE

Check the thermometer. Reduce heat loss or excess heat gradually without sealing off gas exchange.

5

RESTART ONE SYSTEM AT A TIME

Keep emergency aeration running. Prime pumps, confirm flow, inspect the heater, and check overflows before walking away.

6

TEST AND MONITOR

After restart, test ammonia and nitrite. Watch breathing, temperature, filter flow, and fish behavior through the next day.

DO NOT DO THIS

- ✗ Do not feed during the outage.
- ✗ Do not assume a fixed number of safe hours.
- ✗ Do not tear the filter apart.
- ✗ Do not chase temperature with sudden hot or cold water.
- ✗ Do not restart stagnant equipment blindly.
- ✗ Never run a generator indoors or in a garage.

SIGNS YOU MAY SEE

- Surface gathering
- Fast breathing
- Still water
- Falling or rising temperature
- Stopped filter flow
- Several tanks affected

DBC RESCUE METHOD

Stop › Observe › Test › Diagnose › Act › Monitor › Prevent

EMERGENCY TARGETS

Surface	Visible movement throughout outage.
Temperature	Species range; correct gradually.
Ammonia	0 ppm after restart
Nitrite	0 ppm after restart

SCAN FOR FULL GUIDE



dbcaquatics.com/aquarium-rescue

GET EXPERT HELP IF...

- Fish collapse despite active aeration.
- Temperature leaves the safe species range.
- Ammonia or nitrite appears after restart.

Contact an aquatic veterinarian when distress is severe or continuing.