

# Simulated power outages from 'phishing attack' during exercise in Feb

800 organisations, schools and more to participate in Total Defence drill

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Organisations, schools and individuals will experience simulated power outages over a two-week period in February, due to a "phishing attack" by an unknown group.

In this scenario, the power outage will be caused by ransomware spread through phishing.

This simulated attack, as well as various other disruption or preparedness activities, will be carried out as part of this year's Total Defence exercise, named Exercise SG Ready 2025.

The exercise will run from Feb 15 to 28, and aims to encourage everyone to plan for potential disruptions, strengthen their business continuity plans for power disruptions or phishing attacks, and prepare to respond effectively.

In all, over 800 organisations, schools, and units from the educational, community, business and government sectors will take part. Over 20 buildings and two MRT stations will be going through simulated power disruptions as well.

Exercise SG Ready 2025 is a signature event of SG60 – the 60th anniversary of Singapore's independence. It invites Singaporeans to reflect on the crises and disruptions that the country has gone through in the last 60 years and what the country might face going forward. It is co-led by the Ministry of Defence and the Energy Market Authority.



SP Group staff demonstrating how they set up a mobile power generator on Jan 24. This year's Total Defence drill – Exercise SG Ready 2025 – is aimed at encouraging all to plan for potential disruptions, strengthen business continuity plans for power disruptions or phishing attacks, and prepare to respond effectively. It will run from Feb 15 to 28. ST PHOTO: JASON QUAH

To prepare for the exercise, Mindef has released a scenario video showing how a phishing attack can cause disruptions and affect our daily lives. Members of the public are encouraged to watch it at <https://go.gov.sg/sgreedyvideo>

Under the exercise, more than 20 buildings in the city area will be switching off their facade lights to simulate a blackout from Feb 15 to 16. These buildings include the Supreme Court, Singapore Management University, National Heritage Board museums and St Andrew's Cathedral.

City Hall MRT station will also simulate power outages on Feb 16

from 1am to 3.30am. SMRT will engage 300 community participants in a realistic emergency preparedness exercise.

The participants will be guided by SMRT staff and Public Transport Security Command personnel to disembark from the train onto the tracks and evacuate through the station's escape shaft.

A second disruption exercise will be held at Hume MRT station, which is currently non-operational. Details for this exercise have not been disclosed.

Brigadier-General Frederick Choo, deputy secretary (policy) at Mindef, said the MRT exercises

will educate Singaporeans on how to react to power outages.

Companies like Mapletree Business City will simulate power disruptions within their premises and organise tabletop exercises – sessions to discuss simulated emergency situations – with their tenants to strengthen their preparedness for potential disruptions on Feb 17. Quantedge Capital will be coordinating a financial sector-focused tabletop exercise as well.

In schools, the Ministry of Education has developed resources to engage students on resilience in the face of possible power disruptions.

## Simulated blackout

Over 20 buildings in the city area will be switching off their facade lights to simulate a power disruption from Feb 15 to 16.



- 1 Indian Heritage Centre
- 2 Singapore Management University
- 3 Singapore Art Museum
- 4 National Library/Lee Kong Chian Reference Library
- 5 Millenia Tower
- 6 Centennial Tower
- 7 Marina Square
- 8 St Andrew's Cathedral
- 9 Peranakan Museum
- 10 National Archives of Singapore
- 11 Children's Museum Singapore
- 12 Central Fire Station/Civil Defence Heritage Gallery
- 13 Ministry of Digital Development and Information
- 14 Family Justice Courts
- 15 Supreme Court
- 16 National Gallery Singapore
- 17 Parliament House
- 18 Asian Civilisations Museum
- 19 State Courts
- 20 South Beach Tower
- 21 Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre
- 22 Singapore Cricket Club

Source: MINDEF STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Schools are encouraged to participate in Exercise SG Ready through the simulation of a power supply disruption, and through a food or water disruption.

For schools taking part in a food disruption exercise, the Singapore Food Agency and food caterer Sats will distribute ready-to-eat meals to complement the experience.

To ensure businesses have their cyber defences ready, Mindef is partnering the Singapore Business Federation to conduct a phishing

exercise for 200 businesses, focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises. The phishing e-mail will be customised for different sectors and run over a few days.

BG Choo said: "We aim to put Total Defence into action and strengthen Singaporeans' resilience and responses in times of emergency."

"We believe that there's a part for all Singaporeans to play to keep Singapore ready."

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