Security experts agree an attack on our electrical grid is all but inevitable, but few are prepared for what would happen...

**If the Lights Went Out in America**

“There are emergency preparedness plans in place for earthquakes and hurricanes, heat waves, and ice storms. There are plans for power outages of a few days, affecting as many as several million people. But if a highly populated area was without electricity for a period of months or even weeks, there is no master plan for the civilian population.” —Ted Koppel

**In the Immediate Aftermath, Cities Would Be Hardest Hit**
- Thousands trapped in elevators
- All electrical appliances shut down—refrigerators, heating units, air conditioners
- Water faucets run dry
- Toilets no longer flush
- ATM machines are inoperative
- Banks and other businesses shut down
- Emergency generators provide pockets of power and light but, for the most part, profound darkness
- Battery-powered radios and cell phones still operate but there is no word as to the cause or scale of the power outage
- Gas stations without generators cannot pump fuel

**The Beginning of the Second Day**
- Drugstores and supermarkets have been stripped
- Law enforcement personnel are overwhelmed by medical emergencies and scattered outbreaks of looting
- Batteries on laptops and cell phones are dying
- Radio updates offer conflicting descriptions of the outage with no word as to the expected duration
- Officials disagree as to whether residents should find shelter or evacuate
- Bridges and tunnels are backed up for hours

**By Day Three**
- All gas stations have run out of fuel
- Water is at a premium. FEMA has provided emergency generators to pump water and keep sewage systems operational, but supplies are limited
- Millions of Meals Ready to Eat have been distributed. There is no backup supply

**By the End of the First Week**
- Emergency rations have been depleted
- Hundreds of the elderly and infirm have died
- Hundreds of thousands of refugees have inundated states where the power is still on
- Unequipped to house or feed them, some states have instituted plans to keep the refugees moving
- Only the military can maintain a semblance of order and there aren’t enough troops to go around
- With no federal plan for a widespread power outage lasting more than a week, millions of people are, essentially, on their own

“This is not science fiction. Hats off to Ted Koppel for putting us all on alert.” —Tom Brokaw

“I hope Ted Koppel is wrong about the danger but fear he’s right on the mark.”
—Eric Schlosser, author of *Command and Control* and *Fast Food Nation*