



OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL

JERROLD OWEN, COORDINATOR
JAMES D. OLSON, ASSISTANT COORDINATOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ADVICE TO
AIR RAID WARDENS FOR THE PUBLIC AND THROUGH
PRESS RELEASES

1. Question: What is the difference between a black-out and dim-out under present light restriction orders?
Answer: One difference is that the black-out is called usually for a short period on imminence of an air raid. Thedim-out is to be every night, probably for the duration.
2. Question: Does the dim-out mean that all lighting must be out at night?
Answer: No. This would be a black-out. The dim-out requires extinguishment of non-essential lighting, but permits operation of essential lighting on a restricted or shielded basis so that the normal activity may continue with a minimum of restriction.
3. Question: Do all the regulations affect the entire area?
Answer: No. There are basic regulations which affect the entire area but there are additional regulations which affect that part of the area immediately adjacent to the sea or Pacific Ocean and the Straits of Juan de Fuca.
4. Question: Does a householder have to pull down all the shades in the house every night?
Answer: No. This regulation only affects windows that are directly exposed to the sea. It does not apply to homes in Seattle or to the inland areas of Washington and Oregon.
5. Question: Does the regulation permit use of normal store window lighting and light from industrial or commercial windows?
Answer: Yes. The only case where these are affected is along the thin area exposed to the Ocean and the Straits of Juan de Fuca.
6. Question: Are lighted driveways or other out-door lights for protection and safety around the home permitted?
Answer: Surely. These lights should be shielded, however, so that no light is emitted above the horizontal level, and the size of the bulb should be no larger than necessary to provide the safety and protection needed.
7. Question: Is it permissible to operate perch or garage door lights?
Answer: Yes. But they should be shielded so that no light goes above horizontally outward, and the bulbs should not be larger than needed. Probably a 50 watt lamp is as large as should be used in most cases.
8. Question: Is it permissible to use large flood lights for garden displays, out-door badminton or tennis courts, or other lights of this kind?
Answer: Lighting of out-door ground areas for these purposes is limited to not more than one foot candle and all such lights must be shielded so that no light is directed above the horizontal.

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Large flood lights would very likely create too much light and a Lighting Consultant from the Local Defense Council or the local electrical utility can advise you as to the proper size bulb to use. Most out-door games will be impractical to play under 1 ft. candle.

9. Question: What does one foot candle mean?

Answer: One foot candle is a unit for measure of the amount of light on any particular surface. Authorized Lighting Consultants have regular meters to measure the foot candles. It is about the amount of light in the early twilight after the sun has gone down or about the amount of light provided by a fair downtown street lighting system. The eye cannot judge lighting and it can only be determined accurately with a meter.

10. Question: Is it necessary to drive with parking lights at all times after the 20th of August?

Answer: No. Normal driving lights and traffic regulations will still apply to most all the area of Oregon and Washington. Only on certain sections of streets and roads where headlights would be exposed to the sea are there any restrictions to vehicle lighting. These sections are being adequately posted by the State Highway Department and the counties and cities that are adjacent to the sea. In these zones the cars must proceed with the reduced speed and reduced lighting whether they are going toward or away from the sea and not more than 250 candle power is permitted in each headlight on depressed beam. The Washington State Patrol has information on how headlights can be equipped for dim-out operation using available shelf material. Cars making infrequent trips to these zones may operate with parking lights, or if the highway is of a hazardous nature, they may dim their depressed headlights by covering them with white muslin or other cloth of similar weight. *

11. Question: Why are street lights permitted to burn when other out-door lighting must be extinguished, shielded or reduced?

Answer: The proclamation states that it is contemplated that street and highway lights in other areas (other than those exposed to the sea) shall be governed and controlled by such subsequent orders or proclamations as the exigencies of military necessity may determine. Street lighting is a vital necessity to public safety and to the movement of traffic highly important to our war effort. Any curtailment of normal street lighting involves serious losses just as would any curtailment to war production or protective lighting. Careful consideration is being given this problem as it relates to defense of the area and our war effort.

12. Question: How do I find out what is necessary to do to comply with this order?

Answer: First study the proclamation carefully, then if there are any questions, call your local defense council or the telephone number they have announced to handle these inquiries.

13. Question: Is there any way that responsible lighting advice can be obtained for any particular establishment?

Answer: Yes. The State Defense Council has established Area Lighting Consultants who are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the proclamation and competent lighting engineers. These men are responsible for advice on how to comply and the inspections of places to check the compliances. These men are directly in touch with the State Council Committee and the Office of Civilian Defense so that their information would be uniform and authoritative.

*The Oregon State Defense Council Special Bulletin, August 5, provides for use of cloth comparable to flour sack material over headlamps for cars making infrequent trips into coastal areas.

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14. Question: What should the Air Raid Warden do about this?

Answer: The Air Raid Warden can assist greatly by distributing published and authoritative information on the proclamation so that all people will have an opportunity to know what is required of them. It would be unwise for the Air Raid Warden to give technical advice since this might involve confusion. The Air Raid Warden can encourage wholehearted cooperation with this order that vital defense of the area needs. The Air Raid Warden can report evident violations to proper local constituted authority.

15. Question: Is there a penalty for violations and will this order be enforced?

Answer: There are severe Federal penalties and the order will most emphatically be enforced. However, it is felt that the success of this defensive precaution will be assured by the patriotic cooperation of the great majority of the American citizens. Regular local police officers, including the sheriffs and state patrolmen, are cooperating with the Federal agencies in the enforcement of the proclamation.

16. Question: Do building skylights come under the terms of the proclamation?

Answer: Yes. They should be shielded off since they are sources of considerable upward light and are generally easily seen from the air.

17. Question: Does the public lighting in parks come under the terms of street lighting?

Answer: Yes. This is considered street lighting and is not affected at the present time except in the area exposed to the sea.

18. Question: Does this mean that no neon signs may be burned during the daytime?

Answer: No. The proclamation is only effective during the official hours of sunset to sunrise.

19. Question: What lights have to be extinguished or turned off during these hours?

Answer: All exterior lighted neon or other advertising lighting, bulletin boards, poster boards, lighted buildings, decorative lighting, building outlying lighting or flood lighting and advertising lighting or theater marquee and signs and ornamental lighting immediately within unobscured window lights should be extinguished. However, normal store show window lighting is excepted, except where visible to the sea.

20. Question: What lighting should be shielded and reduced?

Answer: All other lighting of ground areas except industrial and protective lighting must be reduced to one foot candle, and shielded so that no light escapes upward. This would include service station yards, parking lots, used car lots, public and private recreational areas and the open entrances to buildings.

21. Question: Is the out-door lighting of our industrial plants going to be cut down?

Answer: No. There is no indication to reduce the amount of lighting in out-door industrial operations since this would materially affect safety to workers and would substantially curtail production which is essential to winning the war. This lighting must be shielded over or revised to eliminate or reduce the upward light to the most practicable minimum.

22. Question: How about protective lighting such as for docks, bridges, and industrial plants?

Answer: The same conditions apply to this lighting as to out-door industrial lighting. Reductions here might involve serious sabotage damage and increased guarding problem.

23. Question: How and where are the foot candle measurements taken?

Answer: These measurements should be made by the designated Lighting Consultants and will be made on the ground, street or other similar surfaces involved.