

## **THE LONG NIGHT OF THE ITALIAN BLACKOUT (2003)**

During the night of September, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 I was the Prefettura officer on call in Milano.

In the first section, I describe what happened that night: the event, consequences, causes.

The second part is dedicated to the practice drill, Regione Lombardia and Prefettura di Milano carried out the last November with a view to EXPO 2015, involving 50 stakeholders from the area.

The operators created a risk matrix to find out the main problems of a hypothetical blackout.

The risk matrix indicated "information flows", such as the first problem to face.

The simulation tested the information flows in this scenario:

- 4 hours of blackout starting from 7 A.M.;
- Serious damage to two electric stations;
- Progressive reactivation of energy no later than 6 hours since the event.

In my PPT I present the results of the debriefing of the drill.

Summarizing, the criticalities are:

- Different language used by the operators;
- Medical flows;
- Inadequacy of communication tools;
- Need to more awareness of the risk to implement suitable preventative measures.

Regione Lombardia and Prefettura di Milano are working to overcome these criticalities.