

The Centennial Light

Organizing Events

Directions: Read the following information and answer the questions.

The **Centennial Light** is the world's longest-lasting light bulb, burning since 1901. It is located at Fire Station #6 in Livermore, California. The Shelby Electric Company of Ohio manufactured the hand-blown, common light bulb in the late 1890s. Evidence suggests the bulb has hung in at least four different locations. The 60-watt Centennial Light is now very dim, emitting the same light as a 4-watt nightlight.

In 1976, a full firetruck parade was held as the fire department moved the bulb to the new Fire Station #6; the bulb socket's cord was severed for fear that unscrewing the bulb could damage it. It was deprived of electricity for only 22 minutes during the transfer, which was made in a specially designed box. An electrician was on hand to install the bulb into the new fire station's emergency generator. Since that move, the bulb has run continuously for 41 years; previously it had only been off the grid for short periods of time (a week in 1937 for a renovation and the odd power outage).

In 2001, the community celebrated the bulb's 100th birthday with a barbecue and live music. It even has its own webcam. The fire department, a historical society, and two national laboratories provide care for the light bulb. The bulb's long life has been attributed to its low power, nearly continuous operation, and dedicated power supply. Electrical engineers are intrigued why it has lasted so long.

According to the fire chief, every few months a news outlet will publish a story on the bulb, generating visitors and general interest, then it will drop back into obscurity for a while. Many major news channels in the United States, including NBC, Fox, and CBS, have featured it. The bulb has received letters celebrating its longevity from the city of Shelby, Ohio; the California State Assembly and Senate; and President George W. Bush.

Visitors are welcome to observe the light bulb in person, just ring the doorbell at the back of the station or peer through the window.

Source: *Wikipedia, centennialbulb.org*



Centennial Light
Livermore, CA

Questions:

1. Organize the article by making a short heading for each paragraph. (**List the headings**) *Longest Light Bulb, The Big Move, The Secret of Success, Big News, Visiting.*
2. According to the text, what three factors contribute to the light bulb's longevity? (**1 sentence**) *The three factors are low power, continuous use, and a dedicated power supply.*
3. How does the author organize information? (**1 sentence**) *Information is organized by sequence of events, or chronological order.*
4. What evidence shows this light bulb has been given special treatment over time? (**≥3 sentences**) *The light bulb has been given a firetruck parade. A special box was made for its transport to the new station. The light bulb also has its own webcam.*
5. Besides not burning out, what makes this light bulb noteworthy? (**1 sentence, use "because"**) *It is noteworthy because of the number of people who have taken interest in it, like the president.*
6. When was the light bulb not working? (**1 sentence**) *It was temporarily not working during transfer to the new station, a renovation, and occasional power outages.*
7. True or false: "They don't make them like they use to"? (**≥2 sentences**) *True. It is rare to find any piece of equipment that works over 100 years. It shows quality, time, and a little luck went into the making of the bulb.*

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