

The California Independent System Operator predicts California could be short 600 to 3,700 megawatts of power on any given day between May and the end of September, which could result in power outages for millions of Californians. An electrical outage, no matter what its cause, is a time to exercise caution for the safety of our families and our homes, our neighbors and ourselves. Safety also means being prepared and knowing what to actions to take before an outage occurs.

Be prepared for outages

Things you need:

As part of your general emergency preparedness kit, you should keep a battery-powered radio and electric lantern, and two or three flashlights available as well as fresh batteries of the correct size.

Other essentials:

Have a first aid kit and know how to use it. Keep a manual can opener available, and also stock easy-opened prepared foods and snacks as well as a few gallons of water. If you have pets, don't forget to put aside some food for them.

Food Spoilage:

Food generally can stay fresh or frozen for about 24 hours in the refrigerator or freezer. To prolong that time, fill a couple of two-liter bottles of water and put them in the freezer. In an outage, put the ice-filled bottles in the food storage compartment of your refrigerator. Open the door only when necessary.

Medication:

Questions about medications that require refrigeration can be answered by your physician or pharmacist.

When an Outage Occurs:

Home Safety/Security:

Chances are good that if your streetlights are out, your home's lighting will be out too. Be careful and use a flashlight when entering a dark house. Keep a flashlight in your auto or near the entry door.

Candles:

Due to the fire hazard possibility, candles are not recommended for lighting. If you must use candles, keep them away from flammable materials, drafts, and children.

Appliances:

Turn off all electrical appliances. Leave on one light to let you know the electricity has been restored.

Telephones:

Telephone service should not be affected by a power outage. If you have your phone plugged into an answering machine and the machine plugs into the wall, the phone will not work if the power goes out. Unplug the phone from the answering machine and plug the phone directly into the phone jack.

Cordless phones need electricity and will not work during an outage.

Outage Safety Outside the Home

Streetlights:

At night, the streets will be much darker than usual and will look different. Follow all posted speed limits – or drive a bit slower. Use turn signals when changing lanes and especially at corners with crosswalks.

Traffic Signals:

If traffic signals are out, or flashing red, come to a **full stop** at every intersection and proceed as you would at a four-way stop.

If you, someone you care for, a relative, friend or neighbor depends on electrically powered medical equipment, make sure PG & E has identified you as a "SENSITIVE" customer.

"Sensitive" customers will receive phone notification in the event of a rolling blackout.

Set up a personal care network of individuals who will check with you in an emergency to ensure you are okay and give assistance if needed.

Keep a personal health card at home and carry one with you listing:

- Medications
- Allergies, sensitivities, etc.
- Medical providers
- Contact information

If you have mobility problems, keep assistive devices and basic emergency supplies within reach. Portable oxygen tanks should be readily available.

Additional Resources

Pacific Gas & Electric Web page
www.pge.com/safety

For information about food safety and power outages call US Dept. of Agriculture's meat and poultry hotline:
1-800-535-4555

For energy saving tips, visit the Energy Crisis web site:
www.pge.com/123 or call the Smarter Energy Line at
1-800-933-9555

Pacific Gas and Electric 24 hour Emergency:
1-800-743-5000

CITY OF BRISBANE:
Fire Department: 415-657-4300
Police Department: 415-508-2181
City Hall: 415-508-2100
Parks and Recreation:
415-508-2142
Building Department:
415-508-2120
Public Works Department:
415-508-2130
Finance/Water Department:
415-508-2150

CITY OF BRISBANE

Community Emergency Volunteers



**SAFETY TIPS
FOR
POWER
OUTAGES**