

Public Safety Power Outage (PSPS) Tips

1. Take these steps *before* an outage

- [Confirm or update your contact information with PG&E](#). PG&E will send notifications to their contacts in advance of a shutoff, when possible.
- Create an emergency plan for all members of your family, including pets. A Public Safety Power Shutoff can happen at any time of day or night, due to changing weather conditions.
- Plan for any medical needs like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power.
- Identify the unique needs of your family and loved ones for your emergency plan.
- [Prepare an emergency supply kit](#). Include enough water and nonperishable food to last your household 1 week. Be sure to refresh your kit once a year. *(See also Part 3 of this tip sheet.)*
- Have flashlights available for your household. Avoid using candles.
- Have a battery-powered or crank radio.
- Stock up on the right batteries for items you rely on. Include two extra sets in various sizes.
- Keep cash on hand and a full tank of gas. ATMs and gas stations may not be available during an outage.
- Fill empty freezer space with ice cubes. Move items from your refrigerator to freezer if possible.
- Determine if your landline will work during an outage. Keep a mobile phone as backup. Be aware that you may lose both cellular service and internet connectivity.
- Keep mobile phones and other devices charged. Identify backup charging methods for phones.
- If you have a generator, [make sure it's ready to operate safely](#).
- Learn how to manually open your garage or any other door that operates with electricity.
- Talk with your building manager if you live or work in a building that has elevators or electronic key card access to understand how they will deal with a possible multi-day outage.

2. Take these steps *during and after* an outage

- Unplug or turn off appliances, equipment and electronics to avoid damage caused by surges when the power is restored.
- Leave a single lamp on to alert you when the power returns. Then, turn your appliances on one at a time.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Typically, your refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if kept closed. A full freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if only half full). Consider using coolers with ice to keep food cold and safe. If your refrigerator warms to over 40 degrees for 2 hours or more, discard all perishable foods (e.g. milk, dairy products, meats, fish, poultry, eggs, leftover, etc. “When in doubt – throw it out.” For more info see the [USDA food safety guidance](#).
- Be sure to use generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills outdoors only. Do not use a gas stove for heat.
- Check on your neighbors.

3. Build an Emergency Kit

Stock up on enough supplies to last a week. Put the items in waterproof containers and store them in a place that’s easy to reach. Whether you are sheltering at home or evacuating, in a disaster situation you may need to get your supplies quickly. Here’s what you’ll need.

Food and water



Drinking water -1 gallon of water per person per day



Food - Nonperishable and easy to prepare without power



Tools and utensils - Non-electric can opener and forks, spoons and knives



Baby and pet food - Be sure to include food for all members of your household

Equipment



Flashlights - Do not use candles



Extra batteries - Include two extra sets



Radio - Battery-powered or a hand-crank weather radio



Mobile phone - Include a portable charger

Health & Personal Supplies



Basic first-aid kit - From antibiotic ointments and bandages to cold packs and more



Medication and eyeglasses - Prescription and non-prescription



Blankets and clothing - Blankets, warm clothes, sturdy shoes and heavy gloves



Toiletries - Soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.



Activities for children - Toys, books, games and cards



Cash and credit cards - If possible, put aside at least \$100



Important documents - Copies of IDs, medical records, pet vaccinations and family photos



Other useful items - Paper towels, trash bags, multipurpose tool that includes a knife

Remember to refresh your emergency kit at least once a year.