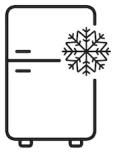
OCP&R - Oakland Community Preparedness & Response

Guide #08

POWER SHUTOFFS (PSPS)

During or after a major disaster or even a gusty storm, power can go out. PG&E may also turn off power during high wildfire danger periods of strong winds and low humidity (Red Flag Warning days) to reduce the chance of a tree or limb falling onto a live power line and sparking. Prepare for power outages and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) with these tips.

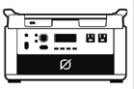
SIGN UP FOR ALERTS - Review PG&E's preparedness information and sign up for their alerts at **www.pge.com**. Sign up for AC Alerts at **www.acgov.org/emergencysite**. For more information refer to **OCP&R Guide #02 – Notifications and Warnings**.



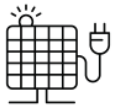
MEDICAL DEVICES AND MEDICATIONS - If you have medical devices that require power or medications that need refrigeration, contact PG&E for more information and to create a plan for power outages. If you are a Medical Baseline customer, PG&E will support you and help with backup power solutions. Go to **www.pge.com** or call **800-743-5000**.

LIGHTING - Have several flashlights (or headlamps as they free up your hands) and many fresh lithium and/or rechargeable batteries on-hand. A lantern-style light can also be handy. LED lights tend to be the most efficient. Wall outlet plug-in lights that automatically turn on when the power goes out are useful. A solar-powered battery charger can be used to charge rechargeable batteries during the day.

CHARGE DEVICES IN ADVANCE - Keep your cellular phones, flashlights, tablets, etc, charged. A USB power bank (small storage battery) can recharge your device one or more times depending on its size. Your vehicle battery can also be used to recharge phones, rechargeable batteries, etc, if you have a 12v car charger. Be careful not to deplete your vehicle battery though – running the engine periodically will recharge it.



MEDIUM SIZED STORAGE BATTERY/UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) - A medium sized storage battery/UPS plugs into a wall outlet so that it's always charged. When the electricity goes out it instantly switches over to battery power. These can run your Internet/phone modem/wireless gateway, LED lights, etc, for a time depending on power draw and battery size. As with any battery, the larger capacity it is the longer it should last. Refer to **OCP&R Guide #20 – Backup Power**.



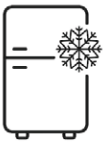
VERY LARGE STORAGE BATTERY - A Powerwall or similar very large storage battery can power a home for some time depending on power draw and battery size, and be recharged via rooftop solar panels. This is a costly but excellent backup power source. A DC to AC inverter connected to an Electric Vehicle can be used to power many devices.

BACKUP GENERATOR - A backup electric generator can be fueled by gasoline, propane or natural gas. There are many caveats and safety considerations in using a generator, for more information refer to **OCP&R Guide #21 – Emergency Generators**.

COMMUNICATIONS - Many cell phone towers use battery backups and they may run out, resulting in loss of phone/Internet service. Cell phone service is not guaranteed during an extended power outage period. Cell towers may also be overloaded or damaged in an emergency. Refrain from sending images and videos, and a text/SMS message may go through an overloaded network when a call can't. For more information, refer to **OCP&R Guide #22 – Emergency Communications**.

Many home phone lines are now IP/Internet-based and require your home cable or fiber modem be powered in order to work (e.g. by a backup battery, generator or solar panels). A Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) copper telephone line may still work without local power, but that depends on if it has power at its source.

DRINKING WATER - EBMUD will deploy emergency generators to continue to refill many of its water tanks, and some water tanks already have backup generators at the pumping station. You should still prepare by having several large containers filled with fresh drinking water (these should always be on-hand and periodically refilled).



REFRIGERATION - Freeze water in containers and leave them in the freezer. The fuller the freezer is, the longer it will stay cold without power. Limit the time you open refrigerator/freezer doors to access food, or use a cooler with ice to store often- needed items. Use up perishables like meat, vegetables and dairy in the refrigerator first, then in the freezer. If in doubt about freshness, throw it out. Have a good supply of canned or dried food on hand that doesn't require refrigeration.

COOKING/HOT WATER - You can usually light natural gas stove-tops with a match. A camping stove or a sun-powered (solar) oven, which works outside in direct sunlight and even on moderately overcast days, can be handy. If you have a natural gas hot water tank or natural gas tankless water heater you can still have hot water if you plug it into a capable backup battery or generator to power the igniter.

GARAGE DOOR - Most garage doors are electrically operated. If yours is, be sure that you know how to open it manually from the inside and/or outside (and how to manually lock it when closed). Consider installing a garage door opener battery backup that will operate the door when power is out.

DRIVING - Keep at least ½ tank of gas in your vehicle at all times. Local gas stations may also lose power and be unable to pump gas. Be careful when driving as stoplights may be out and drivers may be on-edge.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORS - Check in on your neighbors, especially those who may need extra assistance. If you have a generator or solar power system, consider inviting neighbors to charge their devices. Share food, water and support as needed. For more information refer to **OCP&R Guide #01 – Neighborhood Organization**.