



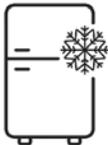
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS (PSPS)



PG&E may turn off electricity during high fire danger periods of high winds and low humidity — typical Red Flag Warning days — to reduce the chance of a wildfire caused by a tree or limb falling onto a live power line and sparking. Prepare for PSPS events with the following tips.



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



MEDICAL DEVICES & 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 PSPS — especially if you are a Medical Baseline customer.



CHARGE DEVICES IN ADVANCE - Pre-charge your mobile phones, flashlights, tablets, etc. USB power banks (external batteries) can recharge your devices 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.



BACKUP UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) - A UPS is basically a larger storage battery that 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 be used to keep your Internet/phone modem/wireless gateway working for a time depending on power draw and UPS size. As with any battery, the larger capacity it is the longer it lasts. Solar generators are another option.



A Powerwall or similar large storage battery can power a home and be recharged via solar panels. For more information refer to OCP&R Guide #20 – Backup Power.



BACKUP GENERATORS - A backup electric generator operates as a stand-alone power source and 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.



LIGHTING Have several flashlights (headlamps are best as they free up your hands) and many fresh batteries on-hand. LED lights provide the most light using the least power. A solar-powered battery charger can be useful for charging rechargeable flashlight batteries during a sunny day.



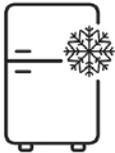
COMMUNICATIONS - Note that many cell phone towers currently have battery backups, and they too will run out at some point resulting in loss of phone/Internet service. Cell phone service is not guaranteed during PSPS, especially for extended periods! Cell towers may also be overloaded, so refrain from sending large images and videos. A text/SMS message may go through an overloaded network when a call can't.



Many home phone lines are now IP/Internet-based and won't work unless your cable or fiber modem is powered (by a UPS, generator or solar). A Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) copper telephone line may still work without power, but that depends on if it has power at its source – no guarantee either.



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 filling several large containers with fresh drinking water (these should always be on-hand and periodically refilled).



REFRIGERATION - Freeze water in containers in the freezer well in advance. 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 and dairy first and if in doubt about freshness, throw it out. Have a good supply of food on hand that doesn't require refrigeration.



COOKING & HOT WATER - You can usually light natural gas stovetops with a match. An alternative for cooking is to use a sun-powered (solar) oven, which works outside in direct sunlight and even on moderately overcast days. 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 UPS or generator/inverter 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 back-up 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.

OCP&R is a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council.

Contact OCP&R for more information and assistance with Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Thanking PG&E for their contribution to this content. Version 1.1 7/21/20

OAKLAND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

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