

# Preparation for a Power Outage



## Sign up for Alerts

PG&E:

[https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/residential/outages/alerts/alerts.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/outages/alerts/alerts.page)

Lake County Nixle alerts:

<https://nixle.com/county/ca/lake/>

Lake County alerts:

[http://www.lakesheriff.com/About/OES/LakeCoAlerts.htm?fbclid=IwAR0tNnp0C49IMjMUcVvA5\\_cslA4yk\\_8fYMmX90dN7jxnk8IVhW-CVrSvsCOW](http://www.lakesheriff.com/About/OES/LakeCoAlerts.htm?fbclid=IwAR0tNnp0C49IMjMUcVvA5_cslA4yk_8fYMmX90dN7jxnk8IVhW-CVrSvsCOW)

## For More Info

Cal Fire's Prepare for Wildfire

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Get-Ready/>

South Lake Fire Safe Council

[www.Southlakefiresafecouncil.org/](http://www.Southlakefiresafecouncil.org/)

FireWise

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

It is inevitable. The power will go out.

- Extreme winds near your home and at major transmission centers will cause PG&E to shut down power to prevent fires.
- A traffic accident will knock down a power pole.
- PG&E workers will shut down power to repair or install power lines.
- This is temporary. Plan for up to 7 days without power.

Preparation is your best defense.

**CASH** – Set aside enough to pay for gas, food and other necessities for up to 7 days. Stores may not be able to process credit cards and checks. Cash is useful for bartering with neighbors for supplies you need.

**GAS** – Keep your gas tank at least half full. There may be a run on open gas stations and driving will be slow if roads are packed in an evacuation. Think, “Half tank of gas is the new empty.” Know how to open garage door without opener.

**MAP** – Keep a local map in your car with addresses for gas, food, hospital, drug store and evacuation routes. Plan evacuation routes in 4 directions (N, S, W, E).

**ALERTS** – Sign up for Nixle, Lake County and PG&E alerts (see sidebar).

**CELL PHONE** – get a car and solar phone charger

- Use airplane mode, turn off unnecessary apps and reduce screen brightness.
- Print out emergency information, post on bulletin board and in evacuation bag to conserve cell phone charge.
- Keep old fashioned phone (doesn't require electricity & needs home service)

**RECHARGE PHONE:**

- Solar recharger
- Car battery recharger
- PC USB port

**PROTECT YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES** –

- Plug your large electronic devices into a surge protector.
- Turn off surge protector when electricity goes off for additional protection from a power surge.

**HEALTH**

- First aid kit at home and in each car.
- Keep a supply and list of prescriptions and other medical requirements.
- Buy a backup battery and store information on medical devices with device.

## Generators

Please choose, install and operate a generator safely.

**NFPA Generator Safety:** <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/ARCHIVED/Portable-generators>

**Red Cross How to Choose a Generator:** <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use.html>

# Preparation for a Power Outage

## LIGHTS

- Bring your garden solar lights inside when it gets dark.
- Get lanterns that recharge with solar power or by cranking.
- Plug in a light that is designed to turn on when electricity goes off.
- Use rechargeable plug in flashlights that will be easy to find and will be charged when needed.
- LED flashlights last 6 to 8 times longer than regular incandescent.
- Download cell phone flashlight app.
- Store extra batteries.

## WATER and CLEANLINESS

- Minimum 1 gallon per person per day (recycle storage every 6 months).  
Additional water is needed for cleaning, hot weather, pets and those doing manual labor.
- Use sanitizing wipes and paper supplies to minimize use of water.
- Learn how to access water from your hot water heater.
- Disinfect water for drinking with 8 to 16 drops unscented bleach per gallon, stir, let sit 30 minutes.
- Prepare water for use for sanitizing by adding 1 TB bleach to gallon of water, let items soak 20 mins.
- Use a bucket of water to flush toilet if necessary. Only flush when necessary. Know this is temporary.
- Consider buying a camping solar shower.

## FOOD

- Refrigerator will stay cold 4 hours with minimal opening and closing.
  - When power goes out put food you need to access frequently in a cooler with ice (milk).
- Full freezer will stay cold 48 hours, half full freezer will stay cold 24 hours.
  - Fill freezer with water jugs before an outage. This keeps freezer full and is extra water if you need it.
- Put a thermometer in freezer and refrigerator to tell you when temperature goes too high to keep food safe.
- Plan, store and date food that doesn't need refrigeration such as peanut butter, beef jerky, canned milk, crackers, dried fruit, 3 bean salad in jar or can, tuna, nuts, juice.
- Make sure you have a manual can opener.
- Store matches to start your gas stove and BBQ which use electrical ignition.
- A non-electric outside cooking method would be useful (BBQ, firepit, camp stove, hibachi).
- When power goes out eat perishable food first.

**COMFORT** – visit a relative or friend who has power! Rent a cabin where there is power.

- Blankets and manual or battery fans.
- Know location of local cooling and warming centers as well as swimming pools, open stores.
- Plan entertainment for long, dark evenings.
  - Board games, cards, storytelling, books, sing, play musical instruments, crafts, stargazing, charades.

*This document is from Cobb View FireWise neighborhood in Cobb, CA [Firewisecobbmt4@gmail.com](mailto:Firewisecobbmt4@gmail.com)*

For additional reading go to:

PG&E: [www.pge.com/](http://www.pge.com/)

Ready.Gov: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage.html>

Weather.com: <https://weather.com/safety/hurricane/news/power-outage-checklist-20120601>