



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

WE DELIVER ENERGY.

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NEWS

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PLAY IT SAFE DURING POWER OUTAGES

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 actions to take before an outage occurs.

Here are some important safety tips from Pacific Gas and Electric Company:

Be Prepared

- [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-open prepared foods and snacks as well as a few gallons of bottled or jugged 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](#): Pacific Gas and Electric Company does not recommend using candles during an outage because of the danger of fire. If you must use candles, keep them away from flammable materials, drafts and children.
- [Appliances](#): Turn off all electrical appliances. Leave one light on to let you know electricity has been restored.
- [Heating](#): Your forced-air furnace will not work during an outage. Stay warm by putting on additional layers of clothing or covering up with a blanket. If you have a fireplace, burn only dry wood, pressed logs or logs made of newspapers. Do not burn charcoal indoors for heat. Burning coals release carbon monoxide, an odorless gas that can prove fatal.
- [Telephones](#): Telephone service should not be affected by a power outage. Cordless phones need electricity and will not work during an outage.

Out And About...

If you are out and about during an outage, you need to exercise extreme care whether you are driving or walking:

- [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.
- [Children and pedestrians](#): When driving, watch for children and pedestrians crossing streets in or out of the crosswalk. They may be wearing dark clothing and be difficult to see. If *you* are walking at night, take a flashlight with you and wear light-colored or light-reflective clothing.
- [Electric generators](#): If you use a stand-by electric generator, be sure that it is installed safely, and call Pacific Gas and Electric Company to let us know you have one. An improperly installed generator risks both your property and the lives of our utility employees who may be working in the area.

Resources

Get a copy of Pacific Gas and Electric’s free brochure, “Standby Electric Generator Safety.” Call us at 1-800-PGE-5000, or read it on the web at www.pge.com/safety.

For information about food safety and power outages, call the U.S.

Department of Agriculture’s meat and poultry hotline at 1-800-535-4555 or use the USDA website at www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/pubs/pofeature.htm.

For more information about gas and electric safety and preparedness, visit our web site at www.pge.com/safety.