



Preparing for Power Outage: Persons Dependent on Electricity

Power outages can occur for a variety of reasons including earthquake, winter storm, or Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS). Putting together a power outage plan now can help protect your health and safety in the event of a power failure.

1 Take an inventory of items you need that rely on electricity

This can include: oxygen concentrator, CPAP, wheelchairs, garage door, refrigerated medications, elevator, ventilator, at-home dialysis, and many other devices.

2 Assemble a power outage kit

- Battery operated flashlights or lanterns
- Back-up batteries for electrical equipment (keep these charged, even unused batteries lose power)
- Back-up oxygen tank, tubing, and mask
- Car charger for devices and external battery pack to charge phone
- Cash in small bills

These items are in addition to your general disaster supplies. Get information on general disaster supply kits at: www.ready.gov/build-a-kit

3 Sign-up for alerts!

Sign up for Santa Barbara County emergency notifications and alerts at www.readysbc.org and Nixle (text your zip code to 888777).

4 Call your local power company

If you are dependent on a medical device, be sure to register with your power company. Ask about the medical baseline program.

- SCE: Update your online account or call 1-800-447-6620
- PG&E: Update your online account at pge.com or call 1-800-743-5000

5 Talk with your healthcare provider and medical device provider

Talk to your healthcare provider, home health, or hospice agency about your power outage plan.

- Find out how long your medications will be OK without refrigeration; get specific guidance for critical medications

Ask your medical equipment provider and/or home health provider about their plans to assist you in emergencies:

- Get daytime and after-hours emergency phone numbers for your provider

6 Plan for back-up power

Remember: Hospitals should not be a source of electrical support or oxygen during a power outage.

- Read your medical equipment manual and identify options you have for back-up power
- Purchase back-up batteries, if possible, for your device and keep them charged

7 Plan where you will go in the event of an outage and arrange transportation

- Plan for a local and out of area location where you can access power
- Identify what transportation you will use to go to a location with electricity
- Keep car gas tanks at least half full
- Gas stations cannot pump gas during outages

8 Establish your support team in advance (family, caregiver, friends)

- Plan how you will communicate with your team - phones may not work
- Complete **My Power Outage Emergency Plan** (reverse side) with list of team and important phone numbers

9 Consider owning a home generator and know how to use it

- Learn how to use and maintain the generator ahead of time
- Have an adequate fuel supply and store it safely
- Always use the generator outdoors, at least 20 feet away from a window

10 Practice your plan with your support team

Brought to you by:



My Power Outage Emergency Plan

Type of Medical Equipment:

Brand/Model #:

Back-up batteries will last for (hrs):

Flashlight is located:

O2 tank is located & will last for (hrs):

O2 tubing/mask is located:

Can you hook up O2 tubing without assistance?:

Yes

No

Medical Equipment Provider Information

Medical Equipment Provider Name:

Daytime Phone#:

After-hours

Emergency Phone #:

Personal Care Provider Information

(e.g. Home Health, Hospice, Dialysis, Caregiver)

Name of agency/provider:

Daytime Phone#:

After-hours

Emergency Phone #:

My Support Team & Where I Will Go During an Outage

Local:

Name:

Phone:

Generator?

Yes

No

Address:

Out-of-Area:

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Generator Information

Wattage:

Fuel

Type:

Fuel Use per hour:

What will generator power?

(refrigerator, O2 concentrator, etc.)