



Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs

We live in an era where Public Safety Power Shutoffs are something we have to live with. These may occur at any time and often with little prior notice. The time to prepare for those shutoffs is now. This information sheet is designed to help Highlanders prepare for future shutoffs and provide information for those considering alternative power sources during a shut off. Of course all of this information is of value for preparing for any natural disaster, including earthquakes.



HOME OWNER PREPARATION

Preparation includes several key components: having adequate supplies on hand, preparing for medical needs, updating contact information and escape routes, and being prepared to evacuate.

1. **Adequate supplies** There are several on-line resources and checklists available with suggestions for what should be in your emergency kit. See [Napa County Preparedness](#) and PG&Es [How to Prepare for a Power Outage](#). The most critical suggestions include:

- ☐ **Food and Water** – Have enough nonperishable food to last your household for three days. Plan on one gallon of water per person per day. Stores may not be open and – especially after an earthquake – gas may not be available, so consider food that doesn't require cooking.
- ☐ **Lanterns, Batteries, Chargers, Radio** – Keep a plentiful supply of battery-operated flashlights and lanterns batteries, along with needed batteries. Many newer LED lanterns and flashlights are rechargeable. Keep all battery powered electronics charged, and ensure charging cables are available for phones and electronics.
- ☐ **Cooler** – A number of coolers are available that will keep food cold for up to 10 days. Consider that an option for refrigerated and frozen food. Ice or dry ice will keep food cold.
- ☐ **Cash** – Have some cash on hand. ATMs, banks and cash registers may not be functioning.
- ☐ Fill your **car gas tank** – Power may not be available. DO NOT run your car in the garage to charge electronics – even with the door open; move it outside.
- ☐ **Copies of Personal Documents** – Take phone photos of important documents such as passports, drivers licence, birth certificates, health and home insurance so you have the information readily available.
- ☐ **Garage Door** – Know how to open your garage door. If it is equipped with a battery back-up, ensure the battery is working and you know how to activate it. If you don't have a back-up, know how to open the door manually.



2. **Medical Preparation** If your household relies on medication or medical equipment The most critical suggestions include:

- ☐ **Medication** – Have adequate supplies of all required medication on hand and ready to take with you.

- ☐ **Medical Equipment** – If you have medical equipment which requires power, be sure to have back up batteries charged and a plan for powering the equipment for prolonged power outages. Know how to open your garage door without power.
- 3. **Update Contact Information and Escape Routes** Be sure your contact information is current and your household has a current escape plan and off-site meeting location in place in the event of an evacuation.
 - ☐ **Highlands Contact Info** – Please be sure your [Owner contact information](#) is correct in our database. This is our primary way to contact you with information. You may also want to add your contact information for [PG&E Wildfire Alerts](#) and sign up for [Napa County Nixle Alerts](#).

Stay safe. Take action.

The threat of extreme weather and wildfires continues to grow. Create and practice a safety plan to protect you, your family and your property.

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Update your contact information</p> <p>Visit pge.com/mywildfirealerts or call us at 1-866-743-6589.</p> </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Build or restock your emergency supply kit</p> <p>Stock supplies to last a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flashlights ▪ Fresh batteries ▪ First aid supplies ▪ Food ▪ Water ▪ Cash </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Talk with your doctor and plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ medications that need refrigeration ▪ medical devices that require power ▪ mobility needs </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Develop and update a hard copy emergency contact list</p> </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Consider staying with a friend or relative during an outage</p> </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Ensure any backup generators are ready to safely operate</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Visit pge.com/generatorsafety for tips</p> </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Practice manually opening your garage door</p> </div> <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="checkbox"/> </div>	

GUIDELINES FOR USING ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES

Highlanders may consider having an alternative power source available, such as portable or permanent generators or a solar system with battery storage. In all cases, the primary concern for the Homeowners Association is the safety of both the homeowner and the Community. A few guidelines will help insure the safety of all if you are considering an alternative power source.

Portable Generators

Gas-operated portable generators can be an effective way to provide limited power in homes during a power outage, and are only permissible in the Highlands during a Public Safety Power Shutoff. However, portable generators can also be quite dangerous and must be used with caution. If you are going to use a portable generator please adhere to the following guidelines:



1. Be sure that the power needs of the devices to be powered (electric load) is supported by your generator and does not exceed the manufacturer's specifications.
2. Place the generator at least 25 feet from your house or garage, and away from air vents or windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and death. Make sure fumes are not blowing at anything flammable like vegetation. DO NOT place the generator in the house.
3. Be considerate ... place the generator where it will not disturb neighbors.

4. Only use grounded extension cords that are properly sized for your generator to prevent overheating.
5. Keep cords out of high-traffic areas so they don't present a tripping hazard.
6. Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat can be generated or where damage to a cord may go unnoticed.
7. DO NOT store fuel in the house, near any open flame (furnace, water heater) or near the generator. Make sure fuel containers are sealed.
8. Have a working carbon monoxide alarm.

Installed Generators (gas, natural gas) and Solar System/Battery

You may be considering a permanently installed and connected generator or a solar and battery system. The Silverado Highlands Board is currently discussing guidelines and possible revisions to the CC&Rs to accommodate these systems. Owners are advised to defer purchase and installation of these systems until the guidelines are established. Safety and considerateness of the entire community are the Board's primary focus.

Once Guidelines are established, any permanent system will require HOA compliance, professional installation and permit(s) from the County.