BEFORE AN OUTAGE

- A PSPS outage will last as long as the potentially dangerous weather conditions exist; plus the amount of time it takes for power company workers to inspect and repair equipment in the affected area(s). Residents need to be prepared to endure a power outage lasting 5-7 days.
- Power outages impact the whole community and can make basic needs difficult to meet, as well as:
  - Disrupt communications (phone/internet)
  - Water distribution
  - Air conditioning
  - Security systems
  - Transportation
  - Electric gates and doors
  - Refrigerated medicines
  - Oxygen concentrators
  - Medical supplies
  - Food supplies
  - Electric medical devices
  - Communication equipment

- What does this mean for Santa Barbara County residents?

  - Prevent the use of medical devices such as oxygen concentrators.
  - Close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks and other services.
  - Cause food spoilage.
  - Prevent the use of elevators, garage doors, electric gates and doors, etc.

What should residents do to be prepared?

Ensuring preparedness will help you be more resident and ready for an extended power outage.

- **How long is a PSPS outage expected to last?**

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- **What does this mean for Santa Barbara County residents?**

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  - Food supplies
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  - Communication equipment

- **What should residents do to be prepared?**

  - Purchase back-up chargers and batteries. Learn how to operate automatic gates/doors manually.
  - Have enough nonperishable food and water (1 gallon per person/per day) for at least 5 days.
  - Talk to your medical provider for advice on electric medical devices and refrigerated medicines.
  - Talk to your employer about their emergency plans during an outage.
  - Update your contact information with your power company to receive PSPS notifications. If you have an electric medical device, sign-up for your utility’s Medical Baseline Program to receive additional notifications.
  - Sign up for Aware and Prepare for PSPS notifications. If you have an electric medical device, sign-up for your utility’s Medical Baseline Program to receive additional notifications.
  - Purchase a battery-powered radio. For a list of local radio stations that broadcast during power outages, go to: https://readysbc.org/听得/ready-radio-ready/!
  - Call your phone company to determine your home phone’s operation in a power outage. Hardwired landline phones generally work during an outage, but wireless or VoIP (Voice over Internet) phones will not. Cell phones and phones powered by electricity work only as long as they are charged and cell towers have power.
  - Keep mobile phones/electric equipment charged and gas tanks full. Most fuel stations will be closed during an outage.
  - Avoid using candles. Have flashlights and batteries prepared.
  - Install carbon monoxide detectors with backup battery on every level of your home.
  - Have enough food, water and medications for your pets.

- **DURING AN OUTAGE**

  - Refrigerators: Keep food cold for about four hours, while freezers maintain temperatures for about 48 hours. Place block ice in the refrigerator, move perishables to lower compartments and monitor/keep temperatures below 40 degrees. Dcribes can be used as alternatives.
  - Consume only food supplies efficiently with perishable refrigerated food first, perishable fresh food next, and canned, shelf-stable and dehydrated foods last.
  - Do not operate generators, camp stoves, charcoal grills indoors or less than 20 feet from windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
  - Use gas-powered generators sparingly; most fuel stations will be closed.

- **AFTER AN OUTAGE**

  - Check on neighbors and pets. Older adults, young children and animals are vulnerable to extreme temperatures.
  - If temperatures are extreme and you are able to leave your location outside of the outage area, turn off all unconnected appliance, equipment or electronics. Power can return in “spikes” or “surges” that can cause damage.
  - Be extra cautious when driving. Treat intersections with a traffic light outage as a four-way stop.

- **Purchase a battery-powered radio. For a list of local radio stations that broadcast during power outages, go to: https://readysbc.org/听得/ready-radio-ready/!**

- **Call your phone company to determine your home phone’s operation in a power outage. Hardwired landline phones generally work during an outage, but wireless or VoIP (Voice over Internet) phones will not. Cell phones and phones powered by electricity work only as long as they are charged and cell towers have power.**

- **Keep mobile phones/electric equipment charged and gas tanks full. Most fuel stations will be closed during an outage.**

- **Avoid using candles. Have flashlights and batteries prepared.**

- **Install carbon monoxide detectors with backup battery on every level of your home.**

- **Have enough food, water and medications for your pets.**

- **When in doubt, throw it out! Discard food exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.**

- **If the outage lasts for more than one day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug’s label says otherwise. Consult a doctor or pharmacist if it is a life depends on the refrigerated drug, and use only until a new supply is available.**

To learn more from your local power company about PSPS, contact:

**Southern California Edison**
(5CE: South Santa Barbara County)
Visit sce.com/PSPS
Phone: 1-800-655-4555

**Pacific Gas & Electric**
(PG&E: Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Ynez Valley)
Visit pge.com/wildfiresafety
Phone: 1-866-743-6999