

PREPARING FOR A (PSPS)

Public Safety Power Shutoff

IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Local power utilities (Southern California Edison/PG&E) may shut down power during critical fire weather to reduce the risk of wildfires.

A **Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)** could lead to multi-day power outages in many areas during periods of extremely hot, dry and/or windy weather.



How long is a PSPS outage expected to last?

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.



What does this mean for Santa Barbara County residents?

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 sanitation services and transportation.**
- **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 to be more resilient and ready for an extended power outage.

BEFORE AN OUTAGE



- **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 emergency alerts at **ReadySBC.org** and **Nixle** notifications by texting your zip code to **888777.**



DURING AN OUTAGE



- **Refrigerators** keep food cold for about four hours, while freezers sustain temperature for about 48 hours. Place block ice in the refrigerator, move perishables to lower compartments and monitor/keep temperatures below 40 degrees. Coolers can be used as alternatives.

- **Consume** food supplies efficiently with perishable refrigerated food first, perishable frozen 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.



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

- **Call** your phone company to determine your home phone's operation in a power outage. Hard-wired 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 battery backup on every level of your home.

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



- **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, go to a location outside of the outage area.



- **Turn off** or disconnect appliances, equipment or electronics. Power can return in **"surges" or "spikes" that can cause damage.**



- **If** a fire starts in your area or if you feel that you are in danger, **do not rely on emergency alerts to tell you when to evacuate.** Emergency alerts may not reach you when the power is out.

- **Help** keep emergency lines open. Only call 911 if you are having an emergency.



- **Take** extra caution when driving. Treat intersections with a traffic light outage as a four-way stop.

AFTER AN OUTAGE

- **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/pharmacist if 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
(SCE; 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: 1-866-743-6589

READY SBC.org
SIGN-UP • PLAN • UNDERSTAND

