



## Takeaways from Supervisor Patti's PSPS Neighborhood Town Halls with PG&E

July 2019

**PG&E must have your current contact information for notifications**

[www.prepareforpowerdown.com](http://www.prepareforpowerdown.com)

Or you can call [1-866-743-6589](tel:1-866-743-6589)

**SJ Co Office of Emergency Services Recommends:**

[www.sjready.org](http://www.sjready.org)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### FAQ's

(This only a partial list, intended to assist you in preparation. This is by no definition a comprehensive plan for your survival. Use common sense. This list has been compiled from the questions that were brought up, and addressed by PG&E, SJCOES, Law Enforcement and the Fire Chiefs that attended during the recent (6) Town Halls that Supervisor Patti hosted during the month of July 2019).

#### Q. Without electrical power, will I still have running water?

- A. In most instances, yes. However, **you must conserve water**, only using what you need.
- PG&E's advance notification system will alert you hours before a shutdown. Fill your bathtub with water for pet needs, watering plants, washing dishes, etc.

#### Q. Since PG&E also supplies my natural gas, will that be shut down as well?

- A. No, during the Power Shutdown, your natural gas should not be affected. However, for other natural disasters, you could be impacted.
- In most cases, your gas operated stove uses an electric igniter. You should have at least one BBQ lighter on hand to use your stove for cooking. There are other uses for this type of lighter as well.

#### Q. I hear people talking about installing a Generator- Should I?

- A. Depending on your personal preferences and needs. Your house will require a sizable generator to run the entire property. You must acquire permits, and it is strongly suggested that you use a licensed electrical contractor for installation.
- Please check into the associated costs and local regulations before making this decision.

#### Q. Can't I just plug a portable generator in?

- A. No! You may be able to run an extension cord from a portable generator to your refrigerator, or other appliances. Products with a heating element (curling irons, blow dryers, toasters, room heaters, coffee pots, etc) require a substantial amount of electricity to run. Again they must be plugged directly into the generator.

- Refer to the products owner’s manual for individual wattage & amp requirements. Depending upon the model, portable generators can run on gasoline or propane and some have dual capabilities.
- DO NOT run a generator indoors, even your garage. Must be outdoors in well ventilated area and away from any air intake.
- Store any approved gasoline containers in a safe place, away from any flame or potential fire hazard. There are safety risks associated with storing gasoline for extended periods, consult your local fire department for more information.
- Any generator must be “Stand Alone”. If you plug it into your house, you have energized the line(s), creating a hazard for any worker that may be working on any portion of the power line, resulting in injury or possibly death that you would be responsible for.

**Q. Will my solar panels run my home?**

- A. No. Solar panels feed into the grid and when the power goes out, they trigger a shut off switch. Unless you have a battery as part of your solar system (they are generally very expensive) it will not work. These Batteries take long periods to re-charge, and can be cost prohibitive to supply enough power for your home.

**Q. What should I do at the onset of a power outage?**

- A. While the power is down, shut off anything that may have been on while energized. Curling irons, and cloths irons pose a high risk of fire if unattended when the power comes back on.

**Q. What should I do to prepare for the power going off?**

- A. Have canned food and bottled drinking water on hand- Enough for several days and for each member of the household.
  - Have a manual can opener.
  - Have flashlights and extra batteries in an easily accessible place.
  - Have a battery powered, portable radio for updates. There are several AM and FM stations that will be broadcasting public information. Wi-Fi will not be working.
    - AM 1420 (Local Stk)
    - AM 740
    - AM 1530 (Sac)
    - FM 92.9 (South County)
  - Have plenty of prescription medications on hand. Pharmacies and doctors office will be closed.
  - Write down relatives and important phone numbers on a piece of paper. Your cell phone may be dead and unable to access stored information. Landlines are not affected by Power Shutdowns.
  - Shut down any computers prior to the power going off. Wi-Fi will not be working.
  - Freeze large water bottles or zip lock freezer bags to place into your refrigerator, and freezer to keep them cold longer. Only open the door(s) when necessary to keep the temperature cold. If the refrigerator rises to a certain temperature, food items must be disposed of as it can make you very ill.

- Frozen items and meats can be used to BBQ or cook as they thaw.
- Have a small portable charger for cell phones & small electronics / You can also plug cell phone into your automobile to charge.

**Q. Can I drive my car around?**

- B. Yes, however only when necessary. Use extreme caution as traffic lights will not be operating. Rail crossing arms have a 6hr battery back-up, after that they will be in-op as well.**
- Know how to open your garage door without electricity (pull cord). Or park your car outside upon notification of the Power Shutdown.
  - Street lights will not be working, roadways will be dark in the evening and at night.
  - Stores and malls will be closed in the affected areas.
  - Upon PG&E’s advance Power Down notifications, make sure that your vehicles fuel tank is full, as fuel stations will not have electricity to run the pumps.
  - During the Power Down Cycle, it would be a great time to visit out of area relatives and grandkids. Depending on their service area, their electricity may not be affected.
  - May also want to take a short trip to an out of area hotel/motel that is not affected.
  - Be aware of any mandatory curfews.
  - RTD buses will be up and running routes during the event period.
  - Not all of the Stockton area may be affected. No particular area is more vulnerable to lose power.

**Q. What about lawlessness and looters?**

- A. Law Enforcement, Fire and First Responders have Contingency Plans for emergencies. To include extended hours of operations. There are plans in place for some areas to call in private security companies to aid in patrol.**
- Your Office of Emergency Services may be activated depending on the length and severity of the event. There will be a mandatory order for all of the above described entities to call in all employees to run patrols and Operations.
  - Stockton PD has in place a “Mobile Field Force” which can mobilize in the case of civil unrest.
  - All City and County Employees are required to come to work and be directed as needed to assist all first responders.
  - Set-Up a Neighborhood Watch Group. Self-Watch and check up on your immediate neighbors.
  - Mutual Aid from non-affected areas can be called in for prolonged events.
  - Curfews could be imposed in certain area for prolonged events.

**Q. What about my families’ medical needs? I can’t afford a generator.**

- A. Shelters will be set up for those with portable CPAP, Oxygen Concentrator/Generator machines. Typical Dialysis Centers and Hospice Centers do not have battery backups or generators. You may have to plan an out of area trip to access some types of ongoing medical care.**

- **Citizens with Medical Conditions will be directed to a shelter: Refer to PG&E's website: [www.PG&E.com](http://www.PG&E.com)**
- **Plan ahead. Research different counties' services. Have important phone numbers written down on a piece of paper in case your cell is dead and not rechargeable.**

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**Other questions may be directed at the [www.prepareforpowerdown.com](http://www.prepareforpowerdown.com) or [www.SJReady.Org](http://www.SJReady.Org) webpage or by calling the phone numbers provided at the top of the page 1.**