

# Are You Ready for a Major Storm?



## Create an Emergency Kit

- Get a battery-powered radio, alarm clock, flashlights and extra batteries.
- Stock up on bottled water and nonperishable food.
- Charge your power backups, cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Include a hand-operated can opener.
- Build a basic first aid kit
- In the winter, keep a pile of blankets handy. If your home has a fireplace, clean the chimney of debris and stock some firewood.
- Plan where and how you would evacuate.

## Prepare for Power Outages

- Charge your phones, tablets, power backups and other mobile devices.
- If you have a landline, ensure you have a corded phone. Cordless phones don't work when the power is out.
- If your mobile phone service provides a "hotspot" for areas without internet access, learn how to use it
- Know how to open your garage door without electricity.
- Know how to reset your home's security system when power returns.

## Prepare for Wind or Flooding

- Secure outside objects like garbage cans and patio furniture.
- Turn off power to natural gas appliances, and shut off natural gas supply valves.
- If you must evacuate, shut off the gas valve at the meter before you leave.
- Cap the open end of appliances to prevent floodwaters from entering the gas piping system
- Electric Safety
- Consider all downed power lines "live" - which means they carry electrical current. Stay at least 30 feet away and immediately call PSE&G at [1-800-436-PSEG \(7734\)](tel:1-800-436-PSEG) or [911](tel:911) to report downed wires.
- Don't try to cut or remove trees and brush that are or could become entangled with power lines. A professional tree removal crew will take care of it.
- If you lose power, turn off electric equipment to protect them from power surges caused by restoration.
- Equipment might include: air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, televisions, microwaves, and computers.
- Keep one light switch on so you know when the power is restored.

## Food and Heat Safety

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Unopened refrigerators preserve food for several hours.
- Half-full freezers hold food safely up to 24 hours.
- Full freezers preserve food safely between 36 and 48 hours.
- Don't use a gas stove to heat your home. Gas stoves can generate dangerous levels of carbon monoxide and pose a fire hazard if left untended.

## Generator Safety

- If you're running a generator or other fuel-powered machine, keep it outside. Carbon monoxide (CO) fumes are odorless and undetectable. A generator operated inside can lead to unconsciousness or death.
- Never connect generators to other power sources like power lines. Utility workers who don't know that a generator is connected are in danger of electrocution.

## Outdoor Safety

- If you must go outside during the storm, wear thick-soled shoes and watch your step. Flood waters can carry debris like broken glass and nails.
- If you must drive during severe weather, use extra caution at intersections and railroad crossings. Power outages also affect traffic signals.
- If you're in a car and an electric wire falls on it, stay inside the car, call 911 for assistance, and wait for professionals to arrive. First responders (police, fire, OEM, EMS) should not touch the car until PSE&G arrives to de-energize the power line.

## Check on Elderly Neighbors

- Be a good neighbor. Give those who may need help, a phone call to be sure they are okay.