

ANNA M. ROTH, RN, MS, MPH
HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

RANDALL L. SAWYER
DEPUTY HEALTH DIRECTOR

JOCELYN STORTZ, MS, REHS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR



CONTRA COSTA
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2120 Diamond Boulevard, Suite 100
Concord, California 94520

Ph (925) 608-5500

Fax (925) 608-5502

www.cchealth.org/eh/

**PLANNING FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS
PRIOR TO PG&E POWER SHUTOFFS AND OTHER OUTAGES**

Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) may stop electrical service in parts of Contra Costa County during hot, dry, windy weather to reduce the risk of its equipment sparking a wildfire. Unplanned power outages may also occur due to weather, fire, or other reasons.

If you or someone in your household uses power depended durable medical equipment, we want to prompt you to start planning so that you are safe and have a means to sustain power for your health care needs during the Pacific Gas & Electric power outage.

- If you have questions regarding your PG&E services or to register to receive alerts, please call them directly at 1-800-743-5000 or the most current information on the power shutoffs is found on PG&E's website: pge.com
- If you have questions or concerns regarding your medical equipment needs during the power outage please call the Contra Costa Health Plan Advice Nurse at 1-877-661-6230
- Please remember that if you have a medical emergency during the power outage, call 911. If you need help but it's not a life-threatening emergency, or if you have questions regarding community resources that may assist you, please call the crisis center at 211 or 1-800-833-2900 to get connected with the assistance you need.
- To receive emergency alerts, register online with the Contra Costa County's Community Warning System at cwsalerts.com
- Additional information is also found on the health department's website at cchealth.org/power-shutoff/

Here are some things to consider for your emergency plan:

- If you can stay with a friend or family member who does have power during the outage, it may be a good idea to consider that option and arrange for transportation in advance, if you need it.



- If you can, coordinate with neighbors, friends or family members ahead of time for welfare checks and other needs.
- If you use durable medical equipment (DME) and you are not sure about how to charge it when the power goes out, contact your DME provider as soon as possible for instructions and more information. Ask if they can provide you with a back up battery and keep it fully charged.
- If you use an oxygen concentrator, you may need to switch to oxygen bottles during the outage. Ask your DME provider today for bottles you may need.
- If you use refrigerated medication, it should be safe to use during or after a power outage. Keep it in a closed refrigerator until power is restored. Contact your health provider or pharmacy if you have questions.
- Call your respective non-emergency dispatch numbers for law and fire and have them include notes in the CAD system of what unique needs might reside at your address. This better prepares the first responders to address your needs when they arrive at your address.
- Charging station locations will be on health department website.

