

What to do when the power goes out

First check to make sure you have not blown a circuit. Check the circuit breakers in your home's electrical panel. If **power is out** in your entire neighborhood, call the Facilities Maintenance Department at (760) 725-4683/4324 to report the **outage**. It's imperative that you know in advance where your residence's fusebox is located and how to turn the power and circuit breakers on and off.

If power is out over a widespread area, it may take a longer time to restore power everywhere.

Here are some things to remember or to do...

- UNLESS there is an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. That number should ONLY be used if there is an emergency, or if someone is injured or in danger.
- If there are power lines down in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 and call your utility company. DO NOT GO NEAR DOWNED POWER LINES.
- Listen to local news on your battery-powered radio or visit Camp Pendleton's [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) via your mobile device to find out when the power might be restored.
- Dress to stay warm - wear layers, including a sweater, sweatshirt or even a jacket. You lose heat through your hands and the top of your head. Wear gloves and a knit hat, not just a baseball cap.
- Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. A closed refrigerator can keep food cold for up to 24 hours and a closed freezer can keep food frozen for up to 48 hours.
- If you're cold, take a warm shower - to increase your body temperature. Your hot water tank, even if electric, will stay warm for a few hours.
- Unplug some of your major appliances. When the power comes back on, all of those appliances can create a drain or power surge. This can harm sensitive equipment. To avoid a power surge when the electricity returns, turn off computers, TVs, stereos and other unnecessary electronic equipment at the power source. Leave a light on so you'll know when the power is restored.
- If you have a generator, do not connect it to your home's power system.
- DO NOT USE kerosene heaters, BBQs, or any outdoor type heater inside. Such devices create poisonous gases such as carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas given off by combustion and could kill.

- Evacuate immediately if you smell gas.
- Check on your neighbors or those who may have medical conditions or use medical machinery that operates on electricity. Make sure they are dressed appropriately warm. If someone needs to have machinery that operates on electricity, move them to a place where electricity is working.
- If you have to go out, drive carefully. Remember that traffic signals may be out during a power outage. Consider each intersection to be a four-way stop and drive defensively.

After A Power Outage....

- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.
- Contact your doctor if you're concerned about medications having spoiled.
- Restock your emergency kit with fresh batteries, canned foods and other supplies.

Supplies to keep on hand...

Consider having the following supplies handy in case of an outage or emergency:

- A flashlight with a supply of fresh batteries.
- A portable, battery-powered radio so you can keep up with news.
- A telephone that does not depend on electricity. Cordless phones will not function during an outage.
- A supply of easy-to-prepare, nonperishable foods. This includes packaged snacks, fruits and bottled water and juices.
- A wind-up or battery-operated clock.
- A first-aid kit.
- A manual can opener.