



*Lake County, California*  
*SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

## Power Outage Preparedness

**Automatic garage door opener?** Learn how to disconnect the door from the opener. Most systems have a handle with a rope or string that simply needs to be pulled down to manually open the door. Or, if you don't mind leaving garage open, open it before the power is shut off. The utility company will make efforts to notify you in advance of the planned outage.



**Communication is key.** Traditional phone lines should still operate, but internet phone services may be interrupted. Having a charged cell phone will allow you to receive information, call for help if needed, and keep in touch with friends and family who may be concerned about your well-being. Having a battery backup, as well as a cell phone charger that works in your vehicle, will allow you to keep that cell phone charged even if the power is out in your home.

**Buying a generator!** While most of us can't afford a generator that will run our entire home, a small generator can keep your refrigerator and freezer running. This means having fresh food available to you, and you won't have to throw out a bunch of spoiled food following a multiple day power outage. Remember, when running a generator, be sure to have adequate ventilation, and NEVER operate it indoors. Be sure to follow all manufacturer's instructions and safety guidelines.



**Is your gas tank full?** If the power is off at your home, it may also be off at the gas station and you may not be able to get gas. Limit your driving to essential trips, as you may need that full tank of gas for unexpected emergencies. Unfortunately, if gas is hard to come by we need to expect that thieves will be out looking to siphon tanks. A locking gas cap can save you a lot of money and frustration.

**Medical equipment that relies on power, and no generator at home!** It may be a good idea to relocate to a location that isn't experiencing a public safety power shut off. Take a trip to the coast, visit friends or relatives that aren't in the power shut off area. The availability of shelters is not guaranteed, and I strongly encourage you to prepare for the likelihood that power will be shut off at some point this summer.



**What about water?** A lack of power means a lack of water. When the utility company notifies you of an upcoming power interruption, it's time to prepare. Fill a bath tub or buckets, with water to use for filling the tank on your toilet so you can flush, transferring some water to the sink to wash hands, and dishes, or keeping your pets hydrated. Store drinking or cooking water in clean, sanitized potable water containers.

**Supply Kit.** First, your kit should have drinking water. 1 gallon per person per day is suggested. Also include Nonperishable food that can be prepared without power, tools, utensils, a manual can opener, pet food, at least two flashlights with spare batteries, a battery operated radio, mobile phone car charger, a basic first aid kit, medication and eyeglasses, clothing, cash, toiletries and personal hygiene items, as well as important documents. Being prepared may reduce the stress of a power outage.



Be sure to sign up for notifications from your utility provider. A quick internet search of the name of your utility company along with the term public safety power shutoff will lead you to a lot of useful information on how to plan for these events. Also, be sure to sign up for LakeCoAlerts by visiting the Lake County Sheriff's Office website at [www.lakesheriff.com](http://www.lakesheriff.com)

Turn off heat producing appliances such as irons, heaters, and stoves during an outage. Also, it's a good idea to unplug any electronics that you have such as televisions, computers, gaming consoles or similar items. A power surge may occur when power is restored that could damage these items. You can also use surge protectors to protect these items.