

Power Outages: Preparing for the Unexpected



Providing Reliable Energy



The average Idaho Power customer is without power for fewer than **3 hours** a year. But extreme weather or fires can cause extended outages. We want to make sure our customers are ready for any outage, short or long.



Situations that May Cause Outages

Weather



Heavy snow on trees, high winds, flooding

Icy Road Conditions



Cars on icy roads hitting poles

Animal Interference



Squirrels/birds coming in contact with powerlines

Planned Maintenance



Scheduled maintenance

Safety Precautions



Shutting off power for safety reasons

What is a PSPS?

- A public safety power shutoff, or PSPS, is a proactive outage to certain areas where wildfire risk is high due to extreme weather.
- The decision to call a PSPS is based on many factors:



High Temperature



Low Humidity



High Wind



Dry Vegetation



Public Safety

How Will Customers Be Notified?

We will provide as much advance notification as the event allows.

1-2 Days Prior
PSPS Watch



Sent when a PSPS event is likely.



1-4 Hours Prior
PSPS Warning



Sent when a PSPS event is approaching.



Outage Begins
PSPS Outage Alert



Sent when the PSPS outage begins.



Updates
PSPS Updates



Sent as needed and when restoration work begins.



Power Restored
PSPS Over



Sent when power has been restored.

What You Can Do Ahead of Time



DOWNLOAD

the Idaho Power mobile app to receive outage information.



LEARN

how to manually open security gates and garage doors.



PLAN

for any unique needs, such as medical equipment and livestock watering.



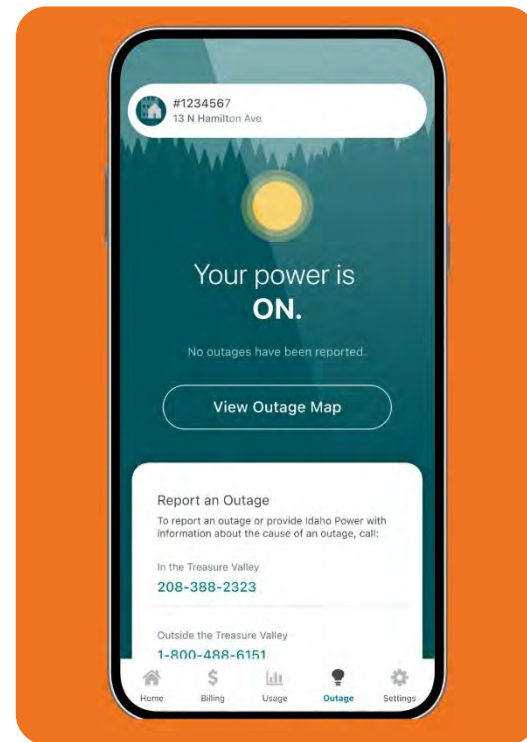
GATHER

an outage kit. This can be a fun family activity.

idahopower.com/outagetips

What to Do if Your Power Goes Out

Check Outage Map

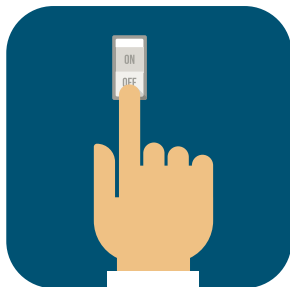


What to Do if Your Power Goes Out

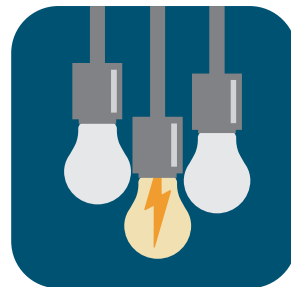
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



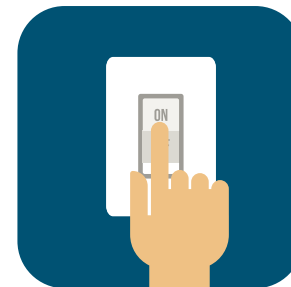
Use battery-powered lights instead of candles.



Turn off machinery or equipment that were in use when the power went out.



Keep one light on so you know when power has been restored.



After power has been restored for 10 minutes, begin turning back on appliances and lighting in 10-minute phases.

What to Do if Your Power Goes Out

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Electric Generators



- Ensure generators comply with National Electrical Codes.
- Never plug an electric generator into an outlet, and do not connect a generator to Idaho Power's electrical system unless through a code-compliant transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician.
- To temporarily power an appliance, plug it directly into the generator.
- Make sure the total electric load on your generator won't exceed the generator's rating.

What to Do if Your Power Goes Out

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Electric Generators



- Use properly sized and grounded extension cords and surge suppressors.
- Place cords where they don't present a tripping hazard.
- Always properly ventilate a portable generator.
 - Gasoline-powered generators produce carbon monoxide, and the fumes can be deadly. Use them outdoors, away from windows, doors and vents, and in open areas protected from weather.

What Idaho Power Is Doing

Vegetation Management



Wrap poles and clear vegetation from their base

Planning for the Future



Create an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Spacing Power Lines



Space out transmission lines to ensure redundant paths

Constantly Monitoring



Constantly monitor and improve our system

Maintain Equipment



Maintain a supply of backup equipment



Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Why should we be prepared?

- The systems we normally rely on will not work or you may not have access to them.
 - Electricity
 - Communication
 - Medication
 - Transportation
- If we are prepared, we are less likely to have problems during a disaster or emergency.
 - Stay independent
 - Stay healthy
 - Face fewer barriers



How do I get prepared?



- 1 Conduct a personal assessment.
- 2 Create an emergency plan.
- 3 Build a kit to evacuate or shelter in place.
- 4 Get — *and stay* — informed.

1 Personal Assessment

- Daily living

- **Personal care:** *Do you regularly need assistance with personal care, such as bathing and grooming? Do you use adaptive equipment to help you get dressed?*
- **Personal care equipment:** *Do you use a shower chair, tub-transfer bench, or other similar equipment?*
- **Electricity-dependent equipment:** *How will you continue to use equipment that runs on electricity, such as dialysis, electrical lifts, etc.? Do you have a safe back-up power supply and how long will it last?*
- **Water service:** *What will you do if water service is cut off for several days or if you are unable to heat water?*



1 Personal Assessment

- Getting around

- **Transportation:** *Do you need a specially equipped vehicle or accessible transportation? Do you have neighbors or friends with transportation who can help you evacuate if necessary?*
- **Errands:** *Do you need help getting groceries, medications, and medical supplies? What if your caregiver cannot reach you because roads are blocked or the disaster has affected them as well?*



1 Personal Assessment

- Evacuating

- **Building Evacuation:** *Do you need help to leave your home or office? Can you reach and activate an alarm? Will you be able to evacuate independently without relying on auditory cues that may be absent if the electricity is off or alarms are sounding?*
- **Building Exits:** *Are there other exits (stairs, windows, or ramps) if the elevator is not working or cannot be used? Can you read emergency signs in print or Braille? Do emergency alarms have audible and visible features (marking escape routes and exits) that will work even if electrical service is disrupted?*
- **Getting Help:** *How will you call for the help you will need to leave the building? How will you communicate with emergency personnel if you don't have an interpreter, your hearing aids aren't working, or if you don't have a word board or other augmentative communication device?*



2

Create an Emergency Plan

- The two scenarios we should plan for:
 - Sheltering in Place
 - Evacuating
- Sheltering in Place
 - What do you need to stay in your own home for hours, days, or a week or more?
 - Food, water, medical supplies, communications, power, etc.
- Evacuating
 - What do you need to think about to safely evacuate to another home or shelter out of harms way?
 - Exiting your home, transportation, supplies, information, etc.



2 Create an Emergency Plan

- List of common hazards (think through what you are most likely to experience and how to respond)
 - Power outages
 - Earthquakes
 - Wildfires
 - Weather events
 - Chemical spills



2

Create an Emergency Plan

- Emergency contact information
 - Support network (family, friends, direct care worker, neighbors)
 - Utilities (water, power, gas)
 - Pharmacy
 - Transportation (NEMT, paratransit, bus system, taxi or cab, etc.)



2

Create an Emergency Plan

- Important lists
 - Current medications
 - Food/drug allergies
 - Preferred foods
- Documents
 - Identification (drivers license, ID card, social security card)
 - Healthcare (Medicaid, private insurance, prescription card)



2 Create an Emergency Plan

- Multiple escape routes out of your home
- A meeting location in case of evacuation
- Location of your emergency kit
- Location of nearest shelter (keep in mind this could change)
- Extra mobility devices near exits
- Train support network on how to use assistive devices and safely transport you

3 Build an Emergency Kit

- Basic survival supplies

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
- Food (at least several days of non-perishable food)
- Battery powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA Weather Radio
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (filter contaminated air)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (personal sanitation)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery



3 Build an Emergency Kit

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - A weather radio with text display and a flashing alert
 - Extra hearing-aid batteries
 - A TTY
 - Pen and paper in case you have to communicate
- People who are blind or low vision
 - Mark emergency supplies with Braille or large print
 - Keep emergency information and supplies list on flash drive or audio file
 - Keep a Braille or deaf-blind communications device in kit



3 Build an Emergency Kit

- People with mobility disabilities
 - Lightweight backup manual chair
 - Know the size and weight of wheelchair
 - Keep an extra cane or walker as backup if you use one
 - If you evacuate without your wheelchair, take your seat cushion with you



4 Get and Stay Informed

- Sign up for alerts
 - Integrated and Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
 - Local and county alerts
 - Smartphone Apps (Code Red + FEMA)
- NOAA Radio
- Join community trainings
 - Disability-specific trainings (CILs + SILC)
 - FEMA trainings
 - CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams)
- Connect with County Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)



Resources

- [American Red Cross \(ARC\)](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)
- [Idaho State Independent Living Council \(SILC\)](#)
- [Living Independence Network Corporation \(LINC\)](#)
- [Southwest Idaho Area Agency on Aging \(SWIAAA\)](#)





Emergency Preparedness and Durable Medical Equipment

Common Types of Equipment



- Oxygen
 - Stationary concentrator
 - Portable oxygen concentrator
- Respiratory
 - Invasive and noninvasive ventilators
 - CPAP/BiPAP
 - Apnea monitors
- Mobility
 - Power wheelchairs
 - Power scooters

Always be Outage Ready

- Preparation
 - Always keep any equipment with an internal battery plugged in so it is in a fully charged status.
 - Keep extra batteries in a fully charged state.
 - Check charge levels regularly
- During a planned loss of power:
 - Make sure you have 1.5 to 2 times the battery time.
 - If outage is longer than you have battery back up, plan on relocating you and your equipment to an area that is not affected by the power outage (e.g., family member)



During an Emergency

- Your Durable Medical Equipment supplier will have plans for emergencies.
 - They need your help, so the system is not overwhelmed.
 - If at all possible, have a back up location.
 - A place not in your immediate area that you can go during an emergency
 - Always take your existing equipment
 - Even though your supplier has plans for emergencies their resources will be limited.
 - Make sure you bring your equipment, so you know you have what you need. This will lessen the demand on your supplier and allow them to better serve everyone affected.



Thank you for joining us!

- Have a Question?

Please use the Q&A option on the lower menu bar, enter your question, and one of us will respond.

