

Emergency Preparedness Services Newsletter

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www.fresno.gov/prepare

Winter is Coming (and Bringing Storms)

A power outage can happen any time and are often related to the high use of electricity for storms in the winter and cooling in summer.

Preparing now for a power outage can help to ensure less disruption in an event. Most power outages in urban areas are of fairly short duration and most of the time we can stay home until the power is restored. But we still need to prepare to prevent damage to appliances and food loss.

Make a “stay at home” kit with flashlights, extra batteries, battery operated candles for lighting, non-perishable food, a can opener and water (the pumps that bring water into homes are often powered by electricity). Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home. Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning: Generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home. Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

Electronics: Unplug electronics until power is restored, surges can cause damage. Consider using surge protectors for these devices.

Food Storage: Keep freezers and the refrigerator closed and consider consuming refrigerated food, which can stay cold for about 4 hours. If food gets warmer than 40 degrees, throw it out to avoid food poisoning.

An interruption in the power system can happen any time and individual households can take steps to be prepared, training in advance and having a few supplies on hand to keep the family safe and more comfortable.

This informational newsletter is provided by the City of Fresno for the purpose of assisting in emergency preparedness within the community.

To make suggestions or inquiries contact:

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For more Emergency Preparedness tools, go to:
www.fresno.gov/prepare



Halloween Safety Tips:

On Halloween, be seen! Make sure trick or treaters have glow sticks, flashlights or illuminated/glowing costumes so drivers can see them as they travel.

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
 - If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
 - Agree on a specific time children should return home
 - Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
 - Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
 - Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to [avoid any food allergies](#).
- National Safety Council

ARE YOU READY? Learn the skills you may need to keep yourself and your family safe in an emergency:

Take a First Aid/CPR class. Some skills classes are offered online, and your workplace may have classes available.

Learn to swim: Drowning is a leading cause of death in children and over 4,000 people die from drowning each year in the US. Check with your local Parks and Rec Department, many offer free swimming lessons.

Prevention of home fires: Unattended flames from barbeques, candles, fireplaces/chimneys and grease fires on stoves are avoidable emergencies and can cause devastating damage and fatalities. Never leave flames unattended.

Infection control and hand washing: Teach everyone in the family to properly wash their hands and to wear gloves to protect from germs. As was learned in the COVID-19 pandemic, the spread of infection can have serious results.