

Rotating Electric Outages

Safety and Conservation Tips



What's the Problem?

In recent months, energy shortages in California have created a potential emergency for residents and businesses. This could lead to temporary planned rotating electricity outages.

- ▶ Planned rotating electric outages prevent statewide loss of electricity.
- ► A Stage III power emergency indicates rotating electric outages **may occur** in your area
- ► Rotating electric outages usually last approximately one hour
- ► Rotating electric outages are spread throughout California
- ► You may not have power while your neighbor does

How Will I Know?

- ► You probably won't receive advance notice
- ▶ Listen to radio or television for information

What Could Be Affected?

- ► Household lights and appliances
- ► Garage door openers
- ► Traffic signals and street lights
- ► Some smoke detectors
- ► Health-related equipment
- ► Cordless telephones
- ► Elevators and escalators

Will I Be Affected?

If temporary rotating outages occur in Southern California:

- ➤ Some Southern California Edison customers will be affected
- ➤ Customers of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and some other municipal electric utilities **probably won't** be affected, check with your provider
- ► Check your electric or utility bill to determine your provider
- ► For questions, call the customer service number on your electric or utility bill
 - Southern California Edison (800) 655-4555, www.sce.com
 - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (800) 342-5397, www.ladwp.com

Contact Information

- ► For general emergency preparedness information contact:
 - City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department (213) 485-5231, www.lacity.org/epd
 - American Red Cross: Contact your local chapter or visit the web at <u>www.acrossla.org</u> or <u>www.prepare.org</u>
 - City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Information Helpline (888) 356-4661
 - Emergency Network Los Angeles (213) 896-9185
 - Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (213) 974-1166



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Preparedness

Before Conserve energy:

- When home, set your thermostat at 78 degrees during summer, 68 degrees during winter
- Don't use large appliances such as your air conditioner, pool pump, clothes washer and electric dryer during peak times
 - Peak winter hours: 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Peak summer hours: noon to 6 p.m.
- Close drapes and blinds to keep heat/cold out
- Weatherstrip doors and windows
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Limit decorative lighting

General Tips

- Have flashlights, radios and clocks, with extra batteries
- People with special medical needs or equipment should be ready for electric outages
- If you have a generator, read the directions and know how to operate it safely
- Plan ahead with your neighborhood watch group
- Know how to operate your garage door without electricity
- Have a non-cordless telephone in case of an electric outage
- Have a working, non-electric smoke detector (battery powered)
- Use stairs, instead of elevators, during outages

Do

During

Stay calm

Use flashlights or light sticks for lighting
Turn off all appliances
Turn off all but one light switch
Listen to the radio for information
Check on those with medical needs
Stop at all non-working traffic signals and
proceed when safe

Do Not

Do not call 911 due to a power outageDo not assume other drivers will stop for you at non-working traffic signals

The following are extreme fire hazards:

- Do not use candles for lighting
- Do not use oven for heating
- Do not use barbecue indoors for heating
- Do not use barbecue indoors for cooking
- Do not use propane indoors

After

Continue to conserve energy

Reset all electrical equipment safely

Continue to drive safely: power may be out in other areas

Prepared by the Power Outage Public Education Committee consisting of: American Red Cross • City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department • Disaster Management Area Coordinators • Emergency Network Los Angeles • INFO LINE • Los Angeles County Department of Health Services • Los Angeles County Fire Department • Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management • Los Angeles County Operational Area • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department • Los Angeles Department of Water and Power