We often forget how much we depend on electricity. Here are some things you should consider:

May disrupt communications, water, transportation
May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs and other services
Can cause food spoilage, water contamination
Can prevent use of medical devices

**HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DURING A POWER OUTAGE**

**KEEP FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS CLOSED.**
The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.

**TURN OFF OR DISCONNECT APPLIANCES, EQUIPMENT OR ELECTRONICS.**
Power may return with momentary “surges” or “spikes” that may cause damage.

**USE ALTERNATE PLANS FOR REFRIGERATING MEDICINES OR POWER-DEPENDENT MEDICAL DEVICES.**

**USE FOOD SUPPLIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION.**

**GO TO A COMMUNITY LOCATION WITH POWER WHEN HEAT OR COLD IS EXTREME (IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO).**
HOW TO BE SAFE AFTER A POWER OUTAGE

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.

CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS.
Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.
Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.

IF THE POWER IS OUT FOR MORE THAN A DAY, DISCARD ANY MEDICATION THAT SHOULD BE REFRIGERATED (UNLESS THE DRUG’S LABEL SAYS OTHERWISE).
If a life depends on the refrigerated drugs, consult a doctor or pharmacist and use medicine only until a new supply is available.

TO LEARN MORE WAYS TO PREPARE FOR AN OUTAGE, PLEASE VISIT FEMA.GOV

In order to keep communities safe, PG&E may need to turn off power when extreme weather or wildfire conditions are forecast. This statewide initiative is called Public Safety Power Shutoff.

To learn more about Public Safety Power Shutoff events and how to prepare for power outages, visit prepareforpowerdown.com.