

## Emergency Preparedness – Power Outages

We all learned a lot from the recent power outages. Residents and businesses are advised to prepare now for the next extended power outage that may hit the region. Here are some helpful tips for weathering a storm:

- Assemble an emergency kit. It should include a flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, a fire extinguisher, bottled water, nonperishable food, and a battery-powered radio or TV. (PSE issues regular outage-restoration reports on their Call Center telephone system and Web site, as well as to the local TV, radio, and newspapers.)
- Have an adequate blanket supply on hand for extended outages. If necessary, blankets or cardboard can be hung over windows and doorways to minimize heat loss from a designated “warm” room.
- Avoid opening and closing refrigerators and freezers more often than necessary. Food in a closed refrigerator will stay cold for about 12 hours.
- Turn off lights and unplug all appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, such as computers, to prevent an overload on your circuits when electric service is restored. Leave just one light on to let you know when service returns.
- Do not use charcoal, a gas grill, or a propane tank heater to cook or heat indoors. They can cause a fatal buildup of poisonous carbon monoxide gas.
- If you use a portable home generator, read the manufacturer’s instructions – well before a storm hits – for the safe operation of the generator. Connect the generator through a transfer device, not to your home or building’s main wiring system, to ensure there is no electricity feedback into the power distribution system where power crews are working on the lines. Do not operate generators indoors or in enclosed spaces to avoid the build up of carbon monoxide.
- If you encounter a downed power line, stay well away from the line or anything it may be touching. Immediately report the location of fallen wires to Puget Sound Energy by calling 1-888-225-5773, or call 911.
- Contact the City at 862-8602 regarding plans for limb disposal or emergency shelter.