

ESP

BULLETIN

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EMERGENCY POWER

Earthquakes, firestorms, floods and other emergencies may damage or disrupt electrical lines and systems, leaving you without power.

The magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994 damaged several Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (DWP) facilities, including the Sylmar Converter/Switching Station and the Rinaldi Receiving Station, where most of the city's bulk imported electrical power is received. The quake also damaged several high-voltage transmission lines and caused some towers to fail completely.

As a result, much of the city was left without power for the first time in its history. DWP personnel were able to restore service to 93 percent of the city within 24 hours, but it may take much longer in a larger, regional earthquake.

Another 750,000 customers in nearby cities and in cities tied to the power grid from other states also were affected.

Could you and your family cope without power for several days? Do you, a family member or neighbor rely on power to sustain life-support equipment?

Don't be left in the dark or put your life at risk to potential power failure. Empower your family by preparing your home for a potential loss of power by taking the steps described in this ESP Bulletin.



**BE AWARE,
PREPARE
FOR ALL
HAZARDS**

January
Flooding

February
Landslides

March
Africanized Honey Bees

April
Earthquake

May
Tsunamis

June
Hazardous Materials

July
Bomb Threats

August
Heat Wave

September
Volcanoes

October
Wildfires

November
Windstorms

December
Carbon Monoxide & Radon

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FLASHLIGHTS

Flashlights can provide psychological comfort and immediate emergency light when earthquakes or other disasters disrupt power. But they're only good when you can find them and the batteries work.

Place a flashlight in every room. Secure each one to ensure access. Maintain an ample supply of extra batteries. Check the batteries every six months.

LIGHTSTICKS

Lightsticks also are an excellent source of emergency light and do not require electricity or batteries to operate. Maintain an ample supply for each family member.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

Emergency wall units that plug into electrical sockets and activate when electricity is disrupted also can provide emergency light during power outages.

RADIOS

Reliable information and instructions are essential after damaging earthquakes and other emergencies. Empower yourself and your family by including battery-operated portable radios or televisions and extra batteries in your emergency preparedness kits.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Electrical outages also can impact persons with hearing impairments and others with special needs. Prepare NOW by including the following, as appropriate, in your emergency kits:

- Extra batteries for hearing aids, TDDs, wheelchairs
- Generator for life-safety equipment

CHECKING UTILITIES

Strong earthquakes also can damage utility lines and appliances, putting your home at risk to fire.

Before the next emergency:

- Show responsible family members the location of your electrical service panel and teach them how to turn off service.
- Conduct family drills and simulate turning off electricity to test family skills.

After a power outage:

- Determine if electricity is out only in your home or throughout the neighborhood.
- Check for damage to your appliances, as well as fallen, loose or damaged electrical wires.
- Disconnect appliances that have been damaged.
- Stop the power flow at the service panel if your wiring is damaged.
- Reenergize circuits by turning on the main panel first and then each breaker individually.

This Bulletin is produced as part of the Earthquake Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase individual and home earthquake preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.



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