



# Preparing Your Facility For Potential Power Outages

June 2019

Power outages can occur because of extreme weather and high fire danger conditions, natural disasters, storms, earthquakes or other unforeseen events. Ensure that your employees, tenants and customers know what to do during an emergency and that you have plans for backup power, if needed for your business. **Make it a priority to create an emergency preparedness plan today.**

## Energy Assessments and Efficiency

- Contact your PG&E Account Manager or Customer Service Center to request an onsite energy audit.** Determine how much energy your facility needs during an extended outage (Agricultural Customer Service Line: 1-877-311-3276 or Business Customer Service Center: 1-800-468-4743).
- Create an energy efficiency strategy plan.** Increase your facility's resiliency during power outages, reduce electric bills and maximize generator lifespan and fuel supply.
- Contact a generator company before an outage occurs.** Installation times, pricing and your requirements may vary. Make sure you get an annual price quote and size recommendation.
- Keep records of your energy assessments.** Update annually, or if your facility has expanded, and provide PG&E with your updated contact information.

## Consider Temporary Power

- Ensure backup generators are the correct size for your facility.** Keep the lights on, well pumps running, save perishable food, and power essential equipment.
- Determine whether to buy or rent a generator.** Consider whether a portable or stationary generator is better for your business. Solar power systems will shut down automatically during a power outage.
- Carefully review generator installation and connection requirements.** You should always comply with the manufacturer's safety instructions, including scheduled maintenance.
- Review state and local air quality district requirements, restrictions and reporting.** Requirements may vary from location to location and depending on the type of generator you are using.
- Consider local fuel availability during power outages and other emergencies.** Determine the number of hours needed to run generators without refueling.
- Keep backup generators and fuel in a safe and secure location.**
- Test fuel for degradation periodically.**

## Onsite Power Considerations

- Consider an onsite, distributed energy resource or self-generation.** Power generated at or near the point of use with renewable or fossil fuel solutions can reduce or eliminate electric bills and provide a redundant power source for critical infrastructure.
- Review requirements for self-generation.** Learn about safety concerns, trainings, certifications, insurance liabilities, air quality requirements, restrictions, ordinances and necessary permits.
- Assess your primary goals and drivers.** Gather information about historical electrical usage, utility rates, monthly and annual charges.
- Research purchase and lease options.**
- Determine if your facility could benefit from energy storage.** Depending on pairing with solar or other generation, size and loads, batteries may be able to support operations for multiple hours or days.
- Safely install and maintain any onsite power sources.** Similar to temporary power, you should always comply with the manufacturer's safety instructions, including scheduled maintenance.

Visit [pge.com/beprepared](http://pge.com/beprepared) for more information and preparedness tips

Following the wildfires in 2017 and 2018, some of the changes included in this document are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce future wildfire risk. 06/21/2019