

Transcript: Safety Tips for those with Medical Needs

To reduce the growing threat of wildfires, PG&E may proactively turn off power when severe weather is forecast. If you rely on electricity for medical needs, we encourage you to make an emergency plan. Your plan should include keeping emergency phone numbers handy, identifying a place to go if you need to relocate, considering a backup power option and ensuring you are signed up for PG&E's Medical Baseline Program.

If you're a residential customer with a medical condition that causes you to have special energy needs, PG&E has a financial assistance program to help you. Our Medical Baseline Program provides extra energy at the lowest price if you have qualifying medical equipment in your home or a medical condition with specific heating or cooling requirements, so you can pay less for the energy you need. Examples of qualifying medical equipment and needs include: motorized wheelchairs, CPAP machines that provide continuous positive airway pressure to treat sleep apnea or asthma and other conditions that have special heating and cooling needs. Eligibility is not based on income, just the medical needs of the patient in the home.

What makes us different at CFILC and in Independent Living Centers is that we are run by and for people with disabilities. So last year, during the Power Safety Shutoffs, CFILC teamed up with PG&E to run sort of a pilot. We had a number of people reach out and say, "is there anything I can do to keep the power on in my house. I have medication, my medication is going bad. I use a CPAP machine, I use an oxygen concentrator" and we were able to provide the support and resources needed for the people that reached out to us and need electrical backup support during a power outage. If you are a person with a disability who relies on electricity for your disability needs on a daily basis you could be eligible for Disability Disaster Access and Resource Services. Our website to apply for services is www.disabilitydisasteraccess.org You fill out an application, we will come in and assist you in preparing a personalized preparedness plan, not just, "I'm going to go to my sister's house in another county if something happens where I live", but actual personalized plan based on where you are geographically in the state. We will assist in figuring out whether you qualify for the utility's Medical Baseline Program, and also figuring out if you would benefit from a portable battery in your home during a Public Safety Power Shutoff.