



Media Release

For immediate release: July 22, 2024

Contact: Stephanie Ruiz, Communications Specialist

509-941-7364

Recommendations During Power Outages

Yakima, WA- Power outages can result from severe weather or fires, accidents, or maintenance work, disrupting daily life. In the summer, the increase in wildfire risk means these events can be more common. This year, Pacific Power, Yakima County's electricity provider, announced power shutoffs in response to this risk. Preparing in advance for power shutoffs is critical to help protect individuals and families during a power outage, such as having an emergency kit, securing backup power sources, and staying informed about local alerts.

Preparing for a Power Outage

To prepare for power outages, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends having an emergency kit with essentials, such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, and ensuring backup power for critical medical devices. For those relying on medical equipment, it is important to create a backup power plan:

- Identify backup power sources.
- Check if your medical devices are compatible with batteries or a generator.
- Fully charge your phone, battery-powered devices and backup power sources.
- Sign up for Pacific Power's [Medical Certificate Program](#), which helps Washington customers prepare for emergencies by providing extra notifications during power shutoffs.

The Yakima Health District has additional guidelines for water safety, food establishments, and pools and spas during power shutoffs to protect health and safety.

Water Safety During Power Outages

Private well owners should disinfect their wells following a power outage to ensure safe drinking water when pressure is lost. Detailed instructions for well disinfection are available in the Yakima Health District's [Well Disinfection Flyer](#). Proper disinfection prevents contamination and protects health.

Food Safety for Food Establishments

Food establishments must follow specific guidelines during power outages to prevent foodborne illnesses. These guidelines include keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible, monitoring temperatures, and discarding any perishable food that has been above 41°F for more than four hours. Detailed recommendations are outlined in the Yakima Health District's [Food Safety Guidelines](#).

Recommendations for Pools and Spas

Pools and spas require careful maintenance during power outages to prevent waterborne illnesses and injuries. It is important to maintain proper chemical levels and filtration once power is restored. The Yakima Health District provides detailed guidelines for safely managing pools and spas during power outages in their [Pools and Spas Guidelines](#).

For further information and additional resources, visit the Yakima Health District's [Recommendations During Power Outages page](#).

Quote

"Emergencies can take many forms, it's essential to have a plan in place to ensure families' safety. It is also vital to stay informed, which is why signing up for Alert Yakima is important. Alert Yakima will provide real time updates and critical information during emergencies. Sign up for Alert Yakima today at AlertYakima.org." -Andy Wilson, Local Emergency Response Coordinator, Yakima Health District

Additional Information

[Recommendations During Power Outages | Yakima Health District](#)

[Alert Yakima | Yakima Valley Emergency Management](#)

[Disinfecting Your Well | Yakima Health District](#)

[Food Establishment Power Outages | Yakima Health District](#)

[Power Outages- Pools & Spas | Yakima Health District](#)

[Be Prepared for a Power Outage | Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

[#PrepYourHealth for Power Outages | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[What to Do to Protect Yourself During a Power Outage | | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Outages & Safety | Pacific Power](#)

###