

As storm season nears, PGE asks: Are you prepared?

The news of Hurricane Sandy reminds us of the importance of preparing for the unexpected. We're continually strengthening our system. New technologies and coordinated planning – in addition to proactive measures like our tree-trimming program to reduce tree-related outages – ensure an even quicker, safer and more effective response than ever. (Watch our [video](#) at PortlandGeneral.com/Outage to see how we prepare.)

Five steps for you to take now

PGE wants to help you be ready, too, in case a storm or other event knocks out power this fall or winter. A little preparation now – at home and at your business – will help you, your families and your employees should the unexpected occur.

1. Put together an outage kit for your business or home

- Hand-crank or battery-powered flashlights and radio
- Battery-powered clock
- Car adaptors/chargers for cell phones and laptop computers
- Emergency phone numbers, including PGE outage numbers
- Extra batteries

2. Know how to report an outage.

If your power goes out, you can report it to PGE **by phone** (503-464-7777 or 800-544-1795 outside of Portland) **text message** or **on our website**. Visit PortlandGeneral.com/Outage for more information. Since you might rely heavily on your mobile phone in an outage, visit PortlandGeneral.com on your smart phone to **bookmark our mobile web pages and register your phone for two-way texting**. You may also want to save our outage numbers to your address book so they're handy. We also tweet during outages; you can find us on Twitter [@PortlandGeneral](https://twitter.com/PortlandGeneral).

3. Build an emergency kit

In a large-scale disaster, we expect to rely on first responders like police, fire and other emergency personnel. But according to the American Red Cross, only four percent of Oregonians are first responders– and have to take care of the other 96 percent during an emergency, so their response time could be increased to days or even weeks. Because of this, being prepared – to help ourselves and our co-workers or neighbors – is a must. Put together an emergency kit, and store it in a central location, to make life easier in an emergency. [FEMA's readiness guide](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit) (<http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>) suggests preparing for three to 10 days of response and recovery time.

4. Create an emergency plan – and practice it

Whether at home or at your business, make sure everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Write down important phone numbers that you may not be able to access from your cell phone. Designate an out-of-area contact that everyone can check in with if local networks are jammed. Include paper copies of important documents in your emergency kit or carry a thumb drive with copies of those documents in your purse or car.

5. Get more information

Join the conversation on our new ["Stay safe. Be prepared."](http://PortlandGeneral.com/BePrepared) blog (PortlandGeneral.com/BePrepared) for important tips. It has preparedness steps, links to resources like FEMA and the American Red Cross and easy, quick information that can help you get ready. Add your tips or ask a question!

Attachments: 7 Steps infographic (three formats: pdf, png and jpg.); 7 steps copy