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ROTATING ELECTRIC OUTAGES SAFETY AND CONSERVATION TIPS

What's the Problem?

In recent months, energy shortages in California have created a potential emergency for residents and businesses. This could lead to temporary planned rotating electricity outages.

- ◆ Planned rotating electric outages prevent statewide loss of electricity.
- ◆ A Stage III power emergency indicates rotating electric outages may occur in your area
- ◆ Rotating electric outages usually last approximately one hour.
- ◆ Rotating electric outages are spread throughout California
- ◆ You may not have power while your neighbor does

How Will I Know?

- ◆ You probably **won't** receive advanced notice
- ◆ Listen to radio or television for information

What Could Be Affected?

- ◆ Household lights and appliances ◆ Traffic signals
- ◆ Garage door openers ◆ Some smoke detectors
- ◆ Health-related equipment ◆ Cordless telephones
- ◆ Elevators and escalators

Preparedness

Before Conserve energy:

- ◆ When home, set your thermostat at 78 degrees during summer, 68 degrees during winter
- ◆ Don't use large appliances such as your air conditioner, pool pump, clothes washer and electric dryer during peak times.
- ◆ Peak winter hours: 5 a.m. to 9 a.m.
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Peak summer hours: noon to 6 p.m.
- ◆ Close drapes and blinds to keep heat/cold out
- ◆ Weatherstrip doors and windows
- ◆ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- ◆ Limit decorative lighting

General Tips:

- ◆ Have flashlights, radios and clocks, with extra batteries
- ◆ People with special medical needs or equipment should be ready for electric outages
- ◆ If you have a generator, read the directions and know how to operate it safely
- ◆ Plan ahead with your neighborhood watch group
- ◆ Know how to operate your garage door without electricity
- ◆ Have a working, non-electric smoke detector (battery powered)
- ◆ Use stairs, instead of elevators, during outages

Do

During

- ◆ Stay calm
- ◆ Use flashlights or light sticks for lighting
- ◆ Turn off all appliances
- ◆ Turn off all but one light switch
- ◆ Listen to the radio for information
- ◆ Check on those with medical needs
- ◆ Drive carefully: traffic signals may be out

Do Not

Do not call 911 due to a power outage

The following are extreme fire hazards:

Do not use candles for lighting

Do not use oven for heating

Do not use barbecue indoors for heating

Do not use barbecue indoors for cooking

Do not use propane indoors

After

- ◆ Continue to conserve energy
- ◆ Reset all electrical equipment safely
- ◆ Continue to drive safely; power may be out in other areas.