

BEING PREPARED FOR POWER OUTAGES

To In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Providers,

In recent weeks, high winds and dry conditions in many areas have heightened fire risks causing the utility company to shut off power in many areas. We've created a checklist of steps you can take prior to a power outage to make sure that you are prepared. Walk through these steps with your IHSS recipient and ensure they create their own plan. This will ensure both you and your recipient are safe in the event of a power outage or other emergency situation.

- Keep current contact information** with your utility company so you can receive notifications if you or your recipient's power is shut off.
- Keep your contact information current** with your local IHSS office and **remind your recipient** to do the same.
- List all emergency contact numbers** and have them ready that you can take with you. Local police, fire, family, friends, and include your county IHSS office number.
- Create a safety plan** for yourself and help your IHSS recipient create their own. The plan should include any unique needs you have in case of emergency, an evacuation plan, and an emergency meeting location.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Include enough water and non-perishable food to last one week. Know where your flashlights are. Have extra batteries available for use.
- Create a medical supply kit** that includes any medications, a medication list, and any medical supplies or life-saving equipment that you may need.
- Have a battery-operated radio** to listen for news updates. Have extra batteries available for use.
- Test your landline phone** to find out if it will work during an outage. Keep a mobile phone as backup and keep mobile phones and other devices charged. Invest in an extra cell phone battery charger if able.
- Have a full tank of gas, and cash on hand** if possible. ATMs and gas stations may not be available during an outage.
- Know how to manually open your garage** or any other door that operates with electricity.
- Have a plan for elevators that may not work.** Talk with your Building Manager if you live or work in a building that has elevators to understand how the Building Manager will deal with a possible multi-day outage. Be sure your emergency plan includes how to get out of your buildings if the elevators are not working.
- Find the closest Community Resource Centers** that will be open during the shutoff. These will most likely be listed on your local county website or news outlet site. These centers will have restrooms, bottled water, electronic device charging stations, and air-conditioned seating.
- Visit your local County's Website** before a shut-off occurs to look for other helpful emergency information in your County.
- Share your emergency plan with others** – family, friends, neighbors so that those close to you will know where to locate you to ensure you are safe.
- Follow your emergency plan** if an outage does occur.
- Dial 911** if you experience any immediate safety concerns.