



We will post translations of this message in Русский, Soomaali, Español, 简体中文, Tiếng Việt as soon as we can at <https://go.usa.gov/xtBQC>.

Sept. 8, 2022

To: Case management entities, providers and ODDS staff
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Subject: Possible power outages for fire prevention

The National Weather Service has issued a [red flag warning](#) for much of Oregon from 11 a.m. Friday through 11 p.m. Saturday. The forecast includes gusty winds, low humidity and high temperatures. These extreme conditions are ideal for wildfires.

To protect the public, Oregon's electrical companies may initiate public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). These measures prevent electrical systems from igniting wildfires during times of high risk.

If a PSPS happens, some people won't have electricity. It's possible some might lose power for up to 48 hours. Those who rely on electricity for medical equipment or other reasons need to take steps to ensure their safety.

Prepare

ODDS, our partners and providers have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the people we support. We want to be sure that you are prepared and have a plan.

Please review your emergency plans and activate them if a public safety power shutoff is possible in your area. Please reach out to individuals, families and providers to be sure they have a plan, too.

Here are some questions and items to prepare for:

- What is your plan and backup plan for those who need power for their medical and physical care?
- Can the people in your care and your staff go up to two days without electricity?
- If a person under your care depends on electricity to power life-sustaining equipment or takes medicine that requires refrigeration, what is your plan to ensure their access to electricity?
- If a person or staff under your care will be at risk to heat exposure when the power is out, what is your plan to protect them from the heat?
- What alternative location, such as cooling centers, can you use to keep those in your care safe?

Where to get information

Power companies are posting information on their websites and may be providing alerts to customers who are scheduled for a PSPS. Please consult your company's website for the latest updates. Here are a few of the companies' websites:

- [Pacific Power](#)
- [Portland General Electric \(PGE\)](#)
- [Consumer Power, Inc.](#)

You can also sign up for emergency notifications from Oregon's local alert systems via OR-Alert at <https://oralert.gov>. If you want to share this resource with Spanish speakers before this message's translations are posted, please use this text, "Regístrate para recibir notificaciones de emergencia: <https://oralert.gov>."

Check with your local emergency office — city or county level — to see if they have alerts.

Seek assistance

The Oregon Department of Human Service's [Office of Resilience and Emergency Management](#) (OREM) is working with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to assess the risks for people who need electricity.

OREM and ODHS are doing risk assessments of Oregonians who receive our supports to determine that people have what they need to be safe for 24 to 48 hours.

If you need assistance, information and resources: Call 211. They will connect you with OREM if you need more help.

We understand how stressful this may be for you, your staff and those you support. The early stages of emergencies involve changing information and shifting priorities to meet newly identified needs. It's important to expect new information and guidance as the situation evolves. We are hoping for the best and preparing for the possibilities of what may unfold.

Please, do your best to stay safe and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

Follow us on Facebook @oregonDHS.IDD or twitter @OregonODDS and [explore our website](#).

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept calls from all forms of relay service for people who are Deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. For more information about relay service providers visit www.oregonrelay.com or www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/trs-providers.