UTILITY UPDATE
RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER | ENERGY | LIFE
CITY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC UTILITIES

# PREPARATION is ESSENTIAL

## When Disasters Strike

**A major disaster such as an earthquake may result in long term blackouts or interruptions in water service. Being informed and prepared now will be essential to your safety and survival when emergencies occur.**

### WHAT TO DO NOW

There are three simple steps that you can take now to prepare for an emergency:

1. **Get a Kit –** Put together essentials such as non-perishable foods, water, clothing, flashlights, radios, and batteries.
2. **Make a Plan -** Have an evacuation plan. Know where to meet family members and how to contact them.
3. **Be Informed –** Learn how to respond to disasters in our area and identify ways to stay informed during a disaster.

**Go to ReadyRiverside.com for additional tips and preparation information.**

### WHAT TO DO AFTER

- **Stay Calm** - Do not call 911, unless there is an emergency requiring services.
- **Check for Injuries** – Check for injured family members or neighbors and treat their injuries.
- **Be Cautious** – Stay away from any downed power lines, or flooded areas.
- **Use flashlights** – DO NOT burn candles.
- **Check the Utilities**
- **Electricity** – To prevent damage to appliances, turn off or unplug them. Also turn off the main circuit breaker to your home. DO NOT turn off breaker while standing in water, or with wet hands.
- **Water** – Check for leaks around faucets, toilets, and water heaters. Use shut-off valves for fixtures to stop flows. If needed, turn off the water main located near the street.
- **Natural Gas** – Turn off all natural gas appliances. Check for leaks at gas stoves or water heaters using a flashlight (gas leaks can be detected by their rotten-egg-like smell). Only turn off the gas main if a leak is detected, or local officials advise you to turn it off (as you may need gas for heating or cooking, and only authorized officials can restore services).
- **Use Perishable Food First** – Food that is in your refrigerator usually can last about 4 to 6 hours without power. Make sure to avoid opening and closing it to help keep cool air inside. Freezer's can keep food safe for about 1 to 2 days if properly stocked. If power will be out for extended periods, use perishable foods first before they spoil, then stick to your dried or canned goods.
- **Stay Informed** – Check radio and television broadcasts for up-to-date information on the status of utilities services, and emergency services being provided.

## fast facts

Portable generators are helpful tools to provide electricity in emergency situations. However, there are right and wrong ways to use them. **Generators can electrocute those working to repair the system.**

NEVER wire a portable generator to a home's electrical system.

NEVER use generators inside, or in enclosed areas.

ALWAYS read the operating instructions for your generator.

ALWAYS store generator fuel outside.

ONLY plug appliances directly into the generator's outlets.

## water **safety**

It is critical to conserve water during an emergency.

After a major event like an earthquake do not water your lawn until authorities have indicated that water supplies are back to normal.



*Please return this part of the bill with your payment in the envelope provided.*

*Mail to: City of Riverside Public Utilities, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522-0144.*

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover & American Express

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