



Outage Preparedness

CHIEF NAUGHTON

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Is to prevent and/or minimize the loss of life and property within the corporate limits of the City by establishing control over fires, sudden medical emergencies and the consequences of natural and manmade disasters. The Fire Department accomplishes this mission with three divisions: Administration, Operations, and EMS.

- FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION

Overview

History of Outages

- 2020
- 2021
- 2022

Types of Outages

- Water
- Electrical
- Gas

Preparation Options

Questions





History of Outages

2020

- March
 - Covid
 - Public personnel and services were limited
 - Difficult to find items due to shortages

2021

- February
 - Freezing weather, snow, and ice for several days
 - Difficult to get necessary service
 - Major power outages
 - Frozen pipes

2022

- Entire year
 - Severe heat and drought conditions
 - Water restrictions by the Edwards Aquifer Authority
 - Energy restrictions by City Public Service
- January
 - Freezing temperature
 - Frozen pipes and limited public services
- December
 - Freezing temperatures
 - Several water service disruptions due to broken pipes
 - Electrical disruptions

2023

- Unknown



Question

What is considered an outage?

Limited or no service to meet the minimum basic human requirements to function comfortably.





Types of Outage

- Public Service Outage
 - Limited personnel available due to inclement conditions.
- Water Outage
 - Limited or no water service available
- Electrical Outage
 - Limited or no electrical services available.
- Natural gas Outage
 - Usually, the last public service to be disrupted.



Types of Outages

Public Service Outage

Limited personnel
available due to
inclement conditions

Water Outage

Limited or no water
service is available

Electrical Outage

Limited or no
electrical services are
available

Natural Gas Outage

Usually, the last
public service to be
disrupted



Causes of Outages

– Weather

- Floods
- Droughts
- Lightning
- Extreme temperatures

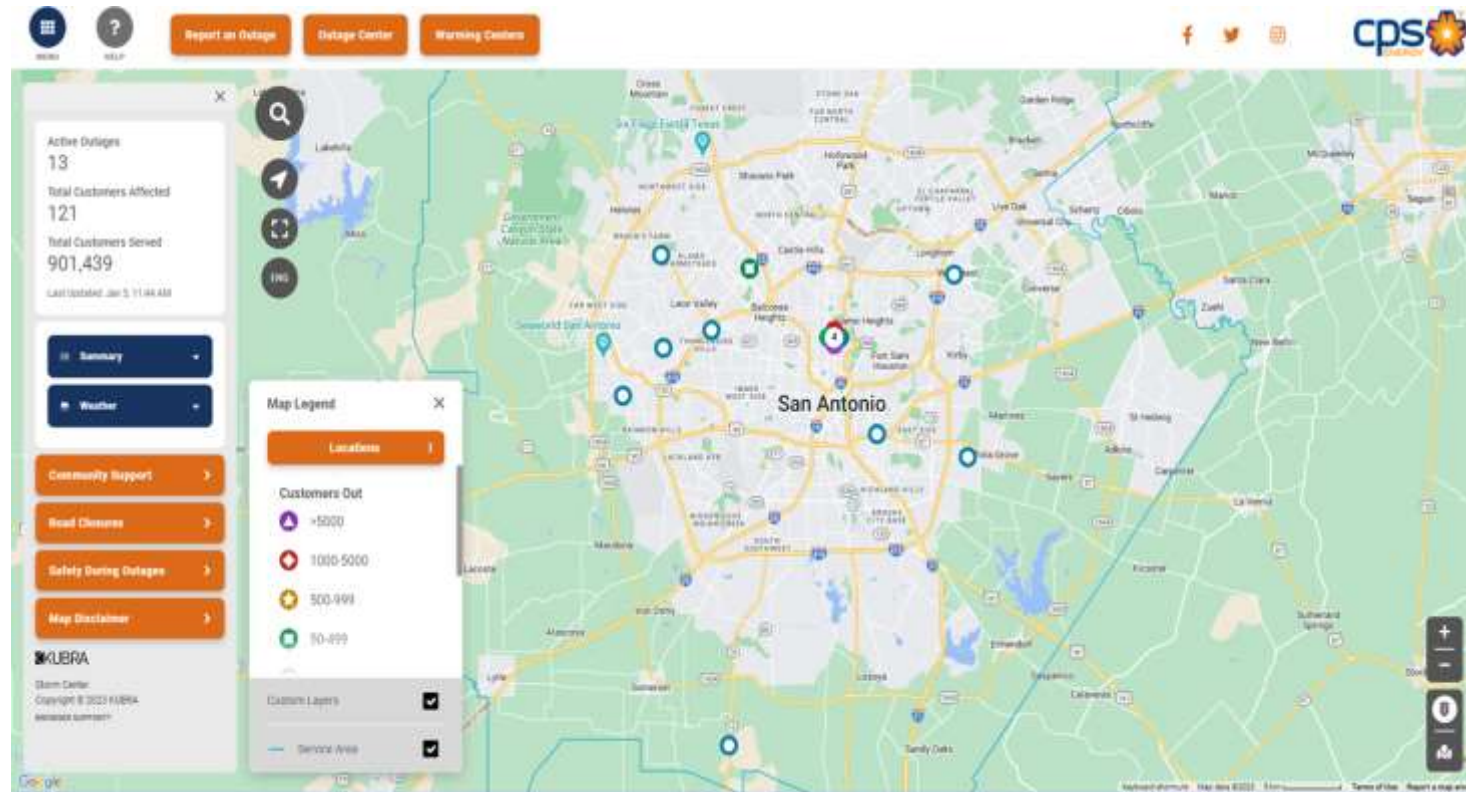


– Mechanical failure

- Pipes
- Pumps
- Transformers

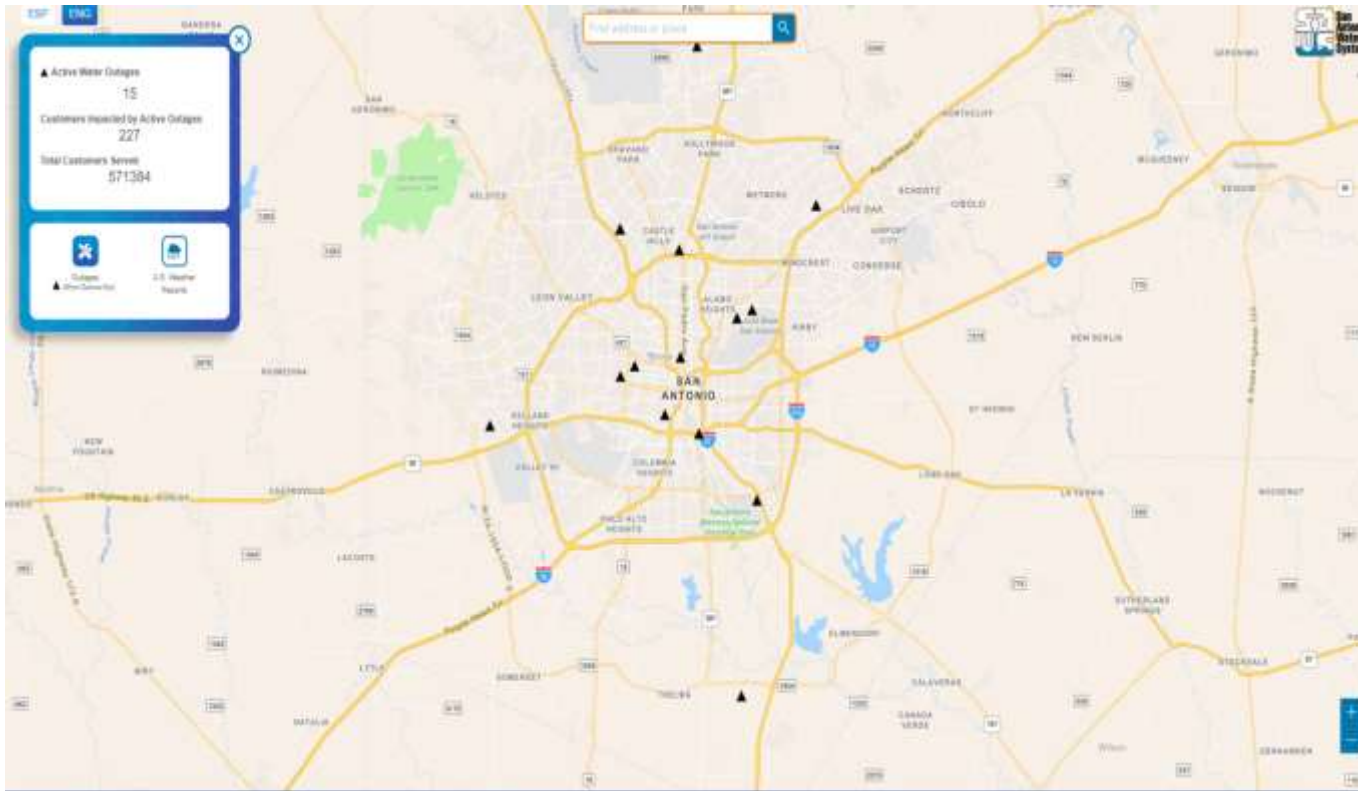


CPS Outage Map



<https://outagemap.cpsenergy.com/>

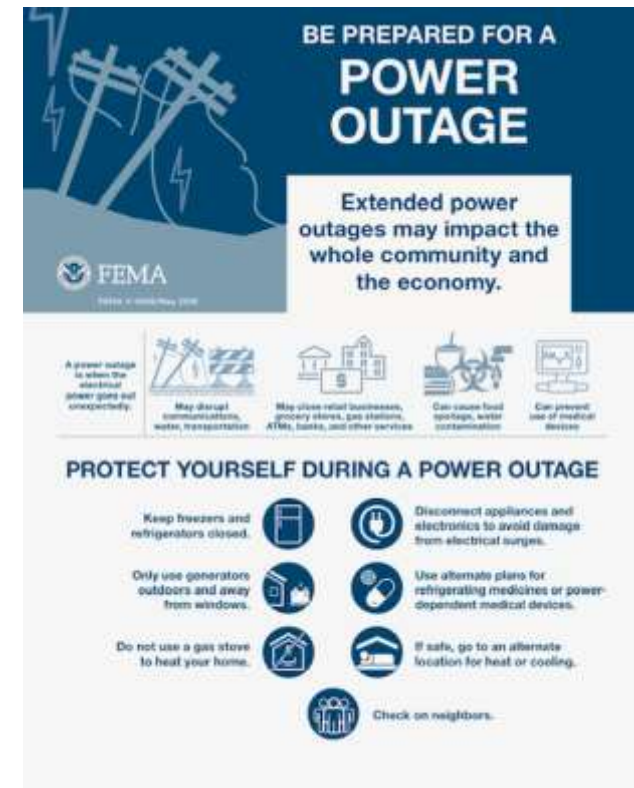
SAWS Outage Map



<https://outagemap.saws.org/OutageMap>

Prepare for an Outage

- Plan
 - Understand what can cause an outage
 - Make a disaster supply kit
 - Plan with family members
 - Determine when to initiate the plan



Assess an Outage

Stay Informed

- What is the current problem and will it progress

Contact your support network

- Family
- Friends

Decide if you need to stay or go

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS: MANAGING YOUR UTILITIES 

Hurricanes Irma and María stressed how important it is to prepare for power outages, water service interruptions or communications failures. Here are some tips that might help you.



The infographic is divided into three horizontal sections, each with a colored arrow pointing right. The top section is red and labeled 'POWER' with a lightbulb icon. The middle section is green and labeled 'WATER' with a faucet icon. The bottom section is blue and labeled 'COMMUNICATIONS' with a satellite dish icon. Each section contains a list of tips.

- POWER**
 - **Have enough flashlights and extra batteries.** Store them in an easy to find place even in the dark.
 - **Safely use portable generators.** Use them only outdoors and observe the manufacturer's instructions and take proper precautions. Stock up on oil and filters for a few days.
 - **Develop a plan for medical equipment.** If medical equipment is provided by a hospital or health provider, ask them about an emergency plan or alternative.
- WATER**
 - **Plan for rain water collection.** You might need it for non-drinking purposes like flushing toilets, washing clothes or cleaning.
 - **Have enough water for at least 10 days.** Estimate the consumption of water for your family including pets. At least one gallon per person per day.
 - **Store water properly.** Keep water in glass, plastic or fiberglass containers to avoid corrosion. Keep containers and water tanks clean, disinfected and sealed.
- COMMUNICATIONS**
 - **Have a crank or battery-powered radio or portable television.** Some solar-powered or hand-cranked radio may also be used to charge cell phones.
 - **Download the FEMA app and other weather or emergency apps.**
 - **Waterproof devices.** If your phone is not waterproof, consider a waterproof case or a thick sealable plastic bag to place your phone into.

For additional emergency-planning resources, visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). For more on hurricane preparedness, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4339/hurricane-preparedness.

March 2018 FEMA

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Manual can opener
- Cell phone chargers
- Pet food

Is Your Disaster Kit Stocked?

Food in your fridge stays good for approximately four hours without power. Hurricane Sandy knocked out power to 8.5 million customers for seven days. What is your disaster preparedness plan?

Be Prepared	When the Power Goes Out	When the Power Returns
		
 Make sure you have an appliance thermometer.	 If the freezer isn't full, group together to form an "igloo."	 Check temperature inside fridge and freezer.
 Have a few days of ready-to-eat food.	 If you anticipate a power outage, put water in the fridge ahead of time, it'll help keep everything cool.	 Discard perishables, meats, poultry, seafood, eggs, leftovers. When in doubt, throw it out!
 Know where to get dry ice or block ice.	 Keep the fridge and freezer door closed.	 Unusual odor, color, or texture? Throw it out!

Prepare your Disaster Kit:

What items should you have on-hand for a power outage:


Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishables.


Choose foods your family will eat.


Avoid foods that will make you thirsty.


Remember any special dietary needs.


Choose salt-free crackers, and whole grain cereals.

Following a disaster, there may be power outages that could last for several days. Stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water or special preparation. Be sure to include a manual can opener and eating utensils.



- 1 Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables and a can opener
- 2 Protein or fruit bars
- 3 Dry cereal or granola
- 4 Peanut butter
- 5 Dried fruit
- 6 Nuts
- 7 Crackers
- 8 Canned juices
- 9 Non-perishable pasteurized milk
- 10 High energy foods
- 11 Vitamins

 **FEMA**

This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit Ready.gov and FEMA.gov.



Additional Supplies

- Prescription medications
- Infant formula
- Eyeglasses
- Important family documents
- Cash
- Extra Clothing
- Sleeping bag
- Feminine Supplies
- Matches
- Mess kits (paper cups, plates, bowls, and utensils)
- Fire extinguisher



Summary

- Prepare for the unknown
- Do not rely on others to meet your needs
- Always stay aware and informed
- Improve and revise your plan regularly



Resources

- <https://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/fire/page/emergency-management-operations>
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- <https://outagemap.cpsenergy.com/>
- <https://outagemap.saws.org/OutageMap>