

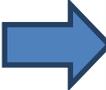


Septic Systems Wildfires – Water Outage – Power Outage

If your sewage treatment system needs power to run a pump(s) and you have a power outage, your pumps won't work and sewage won't be pumped to your drainfield. If you have a gravity septic system, it should continue to work.

When the power goes off (if your system needs a pump):

- Turn the pump's power off at the electrical panel.
- When power is restored, if your panel or electrical system was affected by fire or water, *have it inspected before you turn power on* to your pump.



During the outage - Prevent sewage back-ups into your house and overflows from your septic tank. **Minimize indoor water** use if:

- You have a generator for your well *but* not for your septic system.
 - Your water system is again supplying water, *but* you don't have power to the sewage pump.
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- Your pump tank will work as a holding tank. If you're hauling water to flush toilets, there shouldn't be sewage back-ups. How long this will work depends on how full your pump tank was when the power went out.
 - If you're in a home that has *no power or water* and you need power for the septic system, *you should be using a temporary toilet or:*
 1. Visit a relative's or neighbor's bathroom if it's working.
 2. Modify your own toilet. We suggest:
 - Shut the water valve to the toilet off.
 - Flush out water still in the bowl (the toilet shouldn't refill).
 - Line your toilet bowl (under the seat) with a plastic kitchen garbage bag inside of another kitchen bag.
 - Put some kitty litter, peat moss, lime, or something similar that will absorb liquid and may reduce odors into the plastic bag.
 - After using the toilet, close up the inner plastic bag with a plastic tie or other.
 - You may use the bag several times before you need to replace it.
 - Full bags must be stored in a secure area, away from pets, wildlife, and kids.
 - Wash or sanitize your hands after toilet use and waste handling.
 3. Use a five gallon bucket. You can add a toilet seat, then set it up like option # 2.
 4. If you have to dig a hole for your waste, make sure it's six inches deep so animals won't dig it up. Cover the hole after every use – tamp the dirt down.