



# 11 Ways to Tide You Over During a Power Outage

*A power failure may occur during a windstorm, during an earthquake, or when PG&E turns off the power when an extreme wildfire threatens. So what can you do?*

*An earthquake can occur anytime without warning, so keep a whistle by your bed and have your go bag ready with your wallet, car keys, cell phone, and a week's supply of medications in a dedicated spot near your front door. Always keep your gas tank at least half full because you may be trapped for five days or more and you can charge your cell phone on the cigarette lighter.*

*If there is a Red Alert, fill up your gas tank while you can, as service stations may not be able to operate. Water supply may also be affected, but you need stored supplies on hand because of the risk of an earthquake anyway. The following options can help you find your way in the dark.*

## 1. **Blackout Buddy A MUST**

- LED flashlight plugged into a wall socket, which keeps it charged. It lights up when there is a power failure and can be detached and used as a flashlight. Works in a total blackout.
- Approved by American Red Cross and available at Target or Ace hardware for \$17.

## 2. **AM/FM radio with batteries**

- Provides plenty of information on 740 AM and other news outlets.

## 3. **Mayday Ready Light**

- Very bright, double beamed light with AAA batteries, and wrist strap.
- Can charge by hand if you must.

## 4. **Small, flat candle lights in a tin that last 8 hours.**

- Can be amplified with mirrors; or placed on the dashboard of your car when not driving.
- Cheap and available in groceries and drug stores.
- Handy 2 candle kit with matches at Supreme Canada Ltd.

## 5. **1.5 to 9 volt digital battery tester**

- Small, accurate, for all sizes of batteries that shows how much charge is left; useful to make sure batteries are fully charged when needed when a Red Alert is announced.
- \$8 at Bulbs and Batteries in Concord.

## 7. **Highgear stationary lantern light**

- Keep charged with a mini USB cable or hand winding.
- Stands or hangs with high or low power.
- Useful in your kitchen next to the fire extinguisher.

## 8. **UltraBright Beams Lantern A MUST!**

- Bright, durable LED lasts 30K hours and never needs replacing; ights up 900 square feet.

- Has a USB output port, accessing your computer and charging your cell phone.
- Durable, waterproof, and can stand alone or hang.
- Available at Bulbs and Batteries in Concord for \$35. or <https://www.mrbeams.com/>

## 9. **Head lamp**

- Straps on your head, freeing up your hands.
- Available at REI for \$34. Tricky to learn, but you can just tap it to control the light.

## 10. **West Marine Jumpstarter**

- Keep fully charged in your garage or car for emergency evacuation; check the charge monthly.
- Has a very bright pivoting LED work light; and can inflate bike tires.
- 12 DC outlet for laptop or USB port, plus a 2nd dedicated USB port.
- \$80

## 11. **Battery Powered Back Up Surge Protector for your router**

- Different types available at Amazon.com

### **Not recommended:**

- **Safety Glow stick**-- Gives off no useful light.
- **Rechargeable batteries**--Don't recharge reliably.
- **Gen-Tec 5 in 1 portable power pack**--More for road power pack, expensive with
- **Norco genius**--Only a jump starter.
- **4 IN 1 Dynamo Emergency Radio**--Have to wind the crank, not something you want to do in a crises.

Many thanks to Bob Sieben, author of *Homeowner's Guide to Wildfire Prevention*

