



Dear Students,

I hope this message finds you safe and well. With the fall semester beginning, and all of us around the world engaging in our classes and working remotely, I want you to know that the ISSS office is here to connect with you and assist you in any challenges you are facing.

For those of us in California, we are experiencing some unusual weather and we want you to be prepared. Due to the extreme heat this week, the local energy companies are planning rolling power outages. This means that the power company, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), may turn off power in some areas because more people are using power and it could cause a shortage.

**Sign up for Alerts:** For those in Northern California, sign-up with PG&E to get an alert notification for a planned power outage in your neighborhood. If you are a PG&E account holder (pay a bill to PG&E), **log into your account to sign up for alerts**. If you do not have a PG&E account, you can **sign up for an alert for your zip code**. You can also **check the status of power** in your neighborhood and view the power outage map.

**Prepare for a Power Outage:** Power outages can last a few hours or a few days. Make sure you have one or more flashlights for a power outage. You will also want food that does not require refrigeration. One way to keep your fridge cold is to freeze ice packs or gallon-size plastic jugs of water. When your power goes out you can put these frozen items in your fridge to keep it cool. Extra batteries, or a solar power pack, are also good to have on hand. Read more about **how to prepare for a power outage**.

**Conserve Power:** It is important during this time to **conserve energy**. This article will tell you **why the power company plans an outage** and what you can do to help save energy and prevent the need for an outage.

**Fires in California:** It is common in California for there to be wildfires in the fall when the ground and plants are dry and before the rainy season begins, usually September–November. During this time there may also be emergency power outages, where the power company shuts off power to prevent the spread of wildfires. Taking the steps above will help you be prepared for a wildfire related power outage too. Cal Fire is California’s agency for fire prevention and response; they have **information about current incidents** and **fire preparedness**.

**Emergency Preparedness:** ISSS encourages students to have an emergency plan and be prepared in case of a disaster. Being prepared can help you feel calmer during a power outage and if there is an incident, such as the current pandemic, where you may not be able to go out or perform your routine activities. Use this **California resource** to help think through your plan.

In case of a power outage you may not be able to access the internet or your classes. Make sure you have the ISSS phone number **(415) 422-2654**, the USF Public Safety number **(415) 422-4222**, and the local emergency number **911** (in case of an emergency only) saved on your phone and written down somewhere safe. Let your faculty know if you cannot attend classes due to a power outage, and let ISSS know if there is anything we can do to help.

It is unclear right now if there will be more outages this week, but we wanted to share this information with you since it may be helpful now or in the future.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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Join the conversation **#USFCA**



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