

# PREPARE NOW

ELECTRICAL SAFETY BEFORE A WILDFIRE

## STEP 1: UTILITY PREPARATION



- Locate your home's utility boxes including electricity, water, and gas.
- Be sure each household member knows how to safely power down and shut off utilities in the event of an emergency.
- If you have not been ordered to evacuate by emergency officials and have time to safely prepare your home for a wildfire, shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel supplies directly at the source.
- If asked to evacuate and power remains on in the area, leave both outside and inside lights on so firefighters can locate your home through the heavy smoke.

## STEP 2: EVALUATE ELECTRIC NEEDS



- **SAFETY TIP:** Make sure that yourself and household members know how to manually operate electronic gates and garage doors in the event of an outage.
- Keep a minimum of one cell phone device charged in case you need to contact emergency officials.
- **PRO TIP:** Purchase a battery powered radio to stay informed of public alerts during an emergency.
- Always have a flashlight handy in the event of an outage and that you must evacuate during the night.
- If you or someone in your household is dependent on life-support equipment, be sure to have back up power available or plans to move to a temporary location.

## STEP 3: GENERATOR SAFETY



- Always operate generators outdoors and in areas that contain plenty of ventilation. Generators produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Never plug a generator directly into the wall as this can cause back feed. Instead, use an extension cord to connect electrical appliances.
- After starting your generator and connecting appliances, be sure to gradually power on electric items to avoid overloading the unit.
- Before fueling your generator, be sure that the unit is turned off and cooled.