



## Power Outage and Flood Guidance for Restaurants

January 4, 2023

Dear Operator,

With the heavy storms and potential for flooding, Contra Costa Environmental Health would like to provide you with information on how to safely reopen your food facility in the unfortunate event a power outage or flood water impacts your facility.

**You must not operate if your facility is affected by a power outage or flood waters.** Please remain closed until power is restored and/or the facility is cleaned appropriately, and normal operations can be resumed safely without compromising food safety.

### Quick tips:

- Clean and sanitize all food contact surfaces. Ensure equipment is operational
- Discard food that may have been submerged in flood waters unless the item is a hermetically sealed can and has not been damaged. Discard ice and sanitize ice bins
- Verify food temperatures are maintained at proper cold holding temperatures
- Clean the kitchen, dining, and restroom areas thoroughly with potable water, soap, and use approved sanitizers
- Seal all openings to prevent entry of vermin

### Detailed guidance:

- [FDA's guidance on reopening after flooding](#)
- [Power outage flyers with guidance in multiple languages](#)
- [Power outage FAQs](#)
- [PG&E map of current outages and future Public Safety Power Shutoff \(PSPS\) outages](#)

If you have any questions on whether you should self-close your facility, please contact Contra Costa Environmental Health via telephone at (925) 608-5500 or via email at [cocoEH@cchealth.org](mailto:cocoEH@cchealth.org).

Sincerely,

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