



Utility Outage Policy

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Signed by:
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Policy It is the policy of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to adhere to applicable regulations and the associated procedure when responding to and reporting building utility outages.

Purpose The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the DBH workforce during unplanned utility outages that may include power, water, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and/or air conditioning (HVAC) as a result of natural or man-made events.

Definitions

Power outage: A temporary loss of electrical power.

Water outage: A temporary interruption or loss of water supply to homes, businesses, or a community.

Plumbing outage: A temporary disruption or failure of a building’s plumbing system resulting in a loss or significant reduction of water flow.

HVAC outage: A temporary interruption or malfunction in a building’s heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

Background DBH workforce members occupy multiple facilities throughout the county, which may experience various types of utility outages, including power, water, plumbing, and HVAC disruptions. These situations necessitate consistent and coordinated response actions. The Utility Outage Policy and Procedure outlines clear instructions for workforce response during outage events.

Review dates DBH Office of Disaster & Safety in coordination with Facilities Project Management is responsible for conducting periodic reviews of this policy.

Related Policy or Procedure [DBH Standard Practice Manual and Departmental Forms:](#)

- [Utility Outage Procedure \(SFT7035-1\)](#)

Reference(s) [State of California Department of Industrial Relations “Protecting Workers when there are Power Outages”](#)