

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 48

Date: 10-27-07

Time: 1001 Hours

FOOD SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR FIRE IMPACTED AREAS

Evacuees returning home to fire impacted areas are advised to inspect all food items for damage. Discard canned goods that are swelling or bulging. Discard open food, open or torn food packages, and food that is not sealed.

If the power went out or goes out for less than 2 hours, then the food in your refrigerator and freezer will be safe to consume. While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep food cold for longer.

If the power is or was out for longer than 2 hours, follow the guidelines below:

- For the Freezer section: A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door if you can avoid it.
- For the Refrigerated section: Pack milk, other dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, gravy, and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive Styrofoam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- Use a thermometer to check the temperature of your food right before you cook or eat it. Throw away any food that has a temperature of more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

For guidelines on refreezing food when the power comes back on, visit the Orange County Health Care Agency's website at www.ochealthinfo.com.

The Orange County Public Information Hotline number is (714) 628-7085. Unless there is a life-threatening emergency, do not call 911.

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