

Marshall Community Wastewater System

STEP System Operations and Alarm Procedures for Residents

(For immediate 24-hour response, call NSU at 707-254-1931)

Instructions for Extended Power Outages

If there is a power outage, your STEP system may not work properly, and the alarm will not go off. A portable generator is kept at the community wastewater treatment site for use in an extended power outage. This is for use only by our maintenance contractor to activate individual STEP systems as needed.

1. Curtail water use in the house and check for any leaking fixtures, especially toilets. Avoid the use of clothes washer, dishwasher and baths/showers until the problem is corrected and the pump system conditions return to normal.
2. For some properties, water service will be disrupted without power. This will help safeguard overuse of the septic system.
3. Do not use bay water to flush toilets; salt water can upset/damage the ecological balance in the tank and, since your tank is concrete, it could have a corrosive effect on the tank.
4. Keep an eye on your tank lids. If you see any liquid starting to come up, call NSU asap.
5. Ensure unimpeded access to the tank and control panels for the maintenance contractor; this included opening gates, moving vehicles, and controlling animals, as necessary.
6. **CALL the maintenance contractor if you or renters remain at your residence throughout the extended power outage.** Our contractor will monitor the wastewater situation at individual properties and connect the mobile generator to STEP systems as needed. Alerting us will avoid unnecessary time and expense checking on vacant properties.
7. For Renters: In addition to the above, call property owner and/or property manager to advise them of the situation and for any additional instructions.

Use of private generators

The portable generator operation of STEP units is not intended to be carried out routinely by individual property owners or residents. However, with appropriate training and instruction, it may be possible and acceptable for individual property owners to utilize their own portable generator for temporary STEP pump operation during an extended power outage. A special training session by the maintenance contractor is required for this use and needs to be arranged in advance of a power outage.