

What is a Backup Battery?

Backup batteries are a short-term solution for people with disabilities who use low voltage assistive technology (AT), or durable medical equipment (DME). Batteries may not be a good solution for individuals who require around the clock and multi-day AT or DME that is powered by electricity.

Backup batteries through the Disability Disaster Access & Resources program are provided based on individual situations. They can be provided on a short-term or long-term basis. Some batteries will be new and others might be previously used during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Individuals who wish to purchase a battery, but do not have the resources to do so all at once, may wish to apply for a Freedom Tech financial loan or utilize the lease-to-own program.

Short-Term Battery Loan

Batteries that are loaned out to consumers for thirty (30) days or less. These batteries should be lent out to consumers who live in or are visiting a

Tier 3 or Tier 2 high threat fire area of the state. Short-term battery loans are for individuals who want to use or test out a backup battery to see if it works for them. This short-term loan allows an individual to test if the battery will meet their needs before securing one on a long-term basis.

Short-term battery loans work well for consumers who are using electricity powered AT or DME on a temporary basis or are visiting and staying with family or friends during a PSPS. Short-term batteries that are returned to the program are then known as reuse batteries. Reuse batteries can be used on a short-term or long-term basis.

Long Term Battery Loan/Grant

Batteries that are provided on a long-term basis to a consumer who will benefit from the backup electricity to power their AT and/or DME during a PSPS. Long-term battery loans provided to consumers are considered “grants”. They are not expected to come back to DDAR. If for some reason they are returned to the program, they then become reuse batteries.

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Long-Term batteries should be provided to a consumer who uses AT and/or DME and resides in the highest fire threat areas of the state: Tier 3 (priority) and Tier 2 (second priority) areas.

Financial Loan or Lease-to-Own Battery

Some individuals who apply for DDAR PSPS services may have the resources to purchase a backup battery on their own, but do not have the upfront funding required. The Freedom Tech Financial Loan program is available to individuals who want to purchase their own battery through a payment system. Individuals who apply for a financial loan must be approved, but it is a great way to assist consumers in building their credit.

Reuse Battery

Batteries that are used for demonstrations or short-term loans and returned to the program are considered reuse batteries. Reuse batteries can go in and out of a Disability Disaster Access & Resource Centers (DDARC) through short-term loan processes or can become long-term loans.

DDARC Backup Battery Services

If you live in a high fire threat area, are a person with a disability or older adult, and require electricity to power your assistive technology or durable medical equipment on a regular basis in order to maintain your independence, we invite you to apply for Disability Disaster Access & Resources, www.disabilitydisasterresources.org. After completing the application, you will be contacted by the organization serving your area.



Disability Disaster Access & Resources

A program of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers