

MEMBER SAFETY ALERT Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

This alert is designed to assist members in preparing for a Public Safety Power Shutoff, to minimize loss and stay safe.

What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

During extreme weather events, electric power may be shut off for public safety in an effort to prevent a wildfire. **This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).** Factors in determining a PSPS include low humidity, sustained winds, dry fuel (vegetation) conditions and Red Flag Warnings. Many of these are common in our geographical area.

To determine your area's **PSPS** probability, see the interactive fire map at https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/. Remember, if you are in Tier 2 (lower probability) but your electrical lines run through Tier 3 areas (higher probability), your chances of a **PSPS** are increased.

• For example: Solano County is located in Tier 2, but the electrical lines run through Tier 3 areas, increasing the chances of a **PSPS**.

Counties in lower probability areas also need to be prepared to assist in mutual aid to the higher probability surrounding counties. Assistance may include lodging, medical treatment, gas, food and more in the event of a wildfire.

• In the event of a PSPS store cash registers, ATM's, garage doors, traffic lights, gas pumps and much more will not be useable. Prepare for this type of situation by being informed.

PG&E aims to provide **48 to 72-hour notice** in advance of a **PSPS**, though this <u>may not always be possible</u>. **PSPS may last a week or longer.** The goal is to restore power within 24-48 hours after extreme weather has passed.

• Power outages may cause damage to equipment from surges when power is restored, loss of electronic data, and food spoilage.

Be sure that you are in the loop

Ensure the correct contacts within your district are signed up to receive notifications of **PSPS** from PG&E. Register here:

www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts

Consider listing three points of contact, to include the Superintendent and Director of Facilities.

In addition, there are regional alert systems in each county where schools and residents can register for notifications.

- **Solano County** go to ALERTSolano, www.AlertSolano.com. For information call 707-784-1662 or AlertSolano@SolanoCounty.com. This alert system is more specific than Nixle and provides more geographically focused information, as Nixle alerts are by zip code rather than by specific addresses.
- Yolo County go to https://www.yolocounty.org/residents/emergency-alerts-health-alerts
- Napa County go to https://www.countyofnapa.org/1448/Nixle-Alerts-Advisories

Each county has an Office of Emergency Services (OES) to provide you with the most applicable and updated news.

Napa County

Kevin Twohey, OES Coordinator <u>kevin.twohey@countyofnapa.org</u> 1195 Third Street, Ste B-20, Napa CA 94559 Phone: (707) 299-1892

Solano County

Don Ryan, Manager
dlryan@solanocounty.com
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RLRains@SolanoCounty.com
530 Clay St, Fairfield CA 94533

Yolo County

120 W. Main Street, Ste E, Woodland CA 95695 Phone: (530) 406-4930

If any of your sites are enrolled in PG&E's Medical Baseline program, which supports those on life-support or in need of special equipment for certain medical conditions, ensure that you have a contingency plan. **These sites are not exempt from PSPS**, although PG&E will make every effort to notify program participants in advance.



Additional Resources

PG&E has prepared a guide called, **Public Safety Power Shutoff Policies and Procedures**. It includes a handy Appendix with summary information and tips for preparation.

https://www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf

Many of our school sites are considering or have purchased **generators** for critical systems. Here are some resources for generator safety:

- OSHA Portable Generator Safety Fact sheet https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data Hurricane Facts/portable generator safety.pdf
- PGE Prepare for Power Down, Generator Safety
 http://prepareforpowerdown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Backup Generator FactSheet 0625 2.pdf

For Lessons Learned from the San Diego County Office of Education during the 2007 wildfires, read Communication and Collaboration During Natural Disasters: The Lessons Learned From Past Experience

Resources to help your families prepare personally:

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: <u>Homeowner's Checklist</u>
- PG&E: Emergency Supply Checklist
- PG&E: Public Safety Power Shutoff (including resident alert notification instructions)
- PG&E: Community Safety Measures
- Ready.gov: General Power-Outage Information
- Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoff
- Power of Being Prepared Fact Sheet