

# THE POWER OF BEING PREPARED

## PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Visit [PREPAREFORPOWERDOWN.COM](http://PREPAREFORPOWERDOWN.COM) today to learn more about the power of being prepared.

**THE THREATS OF WILDFIRE AND EXTREME WEATHER IN CALIFORNIA ARE REAL.** As a result, California's three largest energy companies, at the direction of the California

Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), are coordinating to prepare all Californians for the threat of wildfires and power outages during times of extreme weather. To help protect customers and communities 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**.

### Shutting Off Power for Safety

As a safety precaution, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE) and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) monitor local fire danger and extreme weather conditions across California and evaluate whether to turn off electric power. The decision and action to turn off power is made by each individual energy company and is based on a combination of factors. **Factors include, but are not limited to:**



**HIGH WINDS**  
(Including Red Flag warnings)



**LOW HUMIDITY**



**DRY VEGETATION**  
that could serve as fuel



**FIRE THREAT**  
to electric infrastructure



**ON-THE-GROUND OBSERVATIONS**



**PUBLIC SAFETY RISK**

### What You Can Expect

If a Public Safety Power Shutoff is needed due to extreme conditions, you can expect:

- **Early Warning Notification** – Your energy company will aim to send customer alerts before shutting off power.
- **Ongoing Updates** – Your energy company will provide ongoing updates through social media, local news outlets and their website.
- **Safety Inspections** – After extreme weather has passed, your energy company will inspect the lines in affected areas before power is safely restored.
- **Power Restoration** – Power outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. It is important that you and your family have an emergency preparedness plan in place.

SEE THE OTHER SIDE FOR SAFETY TIPS 

[PREPAREFORPOWERDOWN.COM](http://PREPAREFORPOWERDOWN.COM) provides a variety of resources, including tips for preparing for extreme weather, wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. An emergency preparedness checklist and additional resources are available on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

# WORKING WITH CALIFORNIANS TO PREPARE

While Public Safety Power Shutoff events are more likely to occur in high fire-risk areas, all Californians could be impacted by emergency events and need to be prepared with a plan. Customers should also update their contact information with their energy company so they can receive notifications. Below are specific steps you and your family can take to be ready, should there be an extended power outage that lasts multiple days.

## STAY SAFE. TAKE ACTION.

**CREATE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY BY FOLLOWING THE TIPS LISTED BELOW:**

- **Update your contact information** with your local energy company
- **Identify backup charging methods** for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers
- **Plan for any medical needs** like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power
- **Plan for the needs of pets and livestock**
- **Build or restock your emergency kit** with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash
- **Designate an emergency meeting location**
- **Know how to manually open your garage door**
- **Ensure any backup generators are ready to safely operate**
- **Identify the unique needs of your family and loved ones in the area for your emergency plan**

Additional information on creating an emergency plan is also available at [prepareforpowerdown.com](http://prepareforpowerdown.com).

### LEARN MORE FROM YOUR LOCAL ENERGY COMPANY



[sdge.com/wildfire-safety](http://sdge.com/wildfire-safety)



[sce.com/PSPS](http://sce.com/PSPS)



Together, Building  
a Better California

[pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety)

### Additional Preparedness Resources:

- [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) – Disaster preparedness information from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- [readyforwildfire.org](http://readyforwildfire.org) – CAL FIRE's wildfire preparedness website
- [cpuc.ca.gov/wildfiresinfo](http://cpuc.ca.gov/wildfiresinfo) – Information on the CPUC's wildfire safety efforts
- [caloes.ca.gov](http://caloes.ca.gov) – California Governor's Office of Emergency Services website
- [firesafecouncil.org](http://firesafecouncil.org) – California Fire Safe Council website
- [noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov) – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website



# Community Wildfire Safety Program Public Safety Power Shutoff

## Working Together To Protect Our Communities From Wildfires

Given the continued and growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires, and as an additional precautionary measure following the 2017 and 2018 wildfires, we are expanding and enhancing our Community Wildfire Safety Program to further reduce wildfire risks and help keep our customers and the communities we serve safe. This includes expanding our Public Safety Power Shutoff program beginning with the 2019 wildfire season to include all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas – both distribution and transmission.

We know how much our customers rely on electric service and that there are safety risks on both sides. We will only proactively turn off lines in the interest of safety to help reduce the likelihood of an ignition when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted. While customers in high fire-threat areas are more likely to be affected, any of PG&E's more than 5 million electric customers could have their power shut off if their community relies upon a line that passes through a high fire-threat area.

## Public Safety Power Shutoff Criteria

Our Wildfire Safety Operations Center (WSOC) monitors fire danger conditions across our service area and evaluates whether to turn off electric power lines in the interest of safety.

While no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include:



**A RED FLAG WARNING**  
declared by the National Weather Service



**LOW HUMIDITY LEVELS**  
generally 20% and below

*Sept - Nov high probability*



**FORECASTED SUSTAINED WINDS GENERALLY ABOVE 25 MPH AND WIND GUSTS IN EXCESS OF APPROXIMATELY 45 MPH**, depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate



**CONDITION OF DRY FUEL**  
on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)



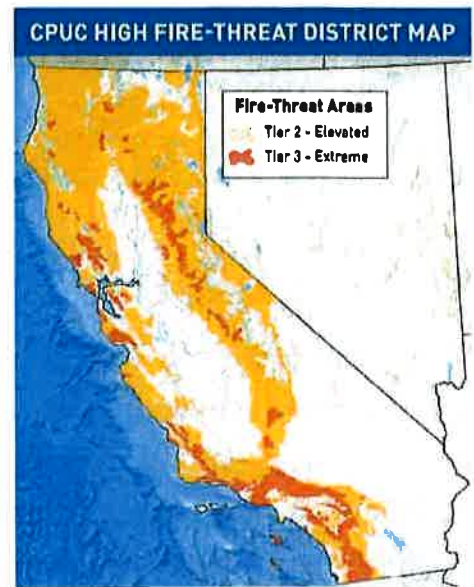
**ON-THE-GROUND, REAL-TIME OBSERVATIONS**  
from PG&E's WSOC and field observations from PG&E crews

*Location Specific*

May 2019

## Potentially Impacted Areas

- The most likely electric lines to be considered for shutting off for safety will be those that pass through areas that have been designated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as at elevated (Tier 2) or extreme (Tier 3) risk for wildfire. This includes both distribution and transmission lines.
- The specific area and number of affected customers will depend on forecasted weather conditions and which circuits PG&E needs to turn off for public safety.
- Although a customer may not live or work in a high fire-threat area, their power may also be shut off if their community relies upon a line that passes through an area experiencing extreme fire danger conditions.
- This means that any customer who receives electric service from PG&E should be prepared for a possible public safety power outage.



Source: California Public Utilities Commission  
[cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps](http://cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps)

## PSPS Event Notifications

Extreme weather threats can change quickly. When possible, we will provide customers with advance notice prior to turning off the power. We will also provide updates until power is restored.

### TIMING OF NOTIFICATIONS (when possible)

- **~48 HOURS before power is turned off**
- **~24 HOURS before power is turned off**
- **JUST BEFORE power is turned off**
- **DURING THE PUBLIC SAFETY OUTAGE**
- **ONCE POWER HAS BEEN RESTORED**



### HOW WE'LL NOTIFY CUSTOMERS

We will attempt to reach customers through **calls, texts and emails** using the contact information we have on file. We will also use **pge.com** and **social media** channels, and we will keep **local news** and **radio outlets** informed and updated.

## Working With Our Customers To Prepare

We are continuing to reach out to our customers and communities about wildfire safety and steps they can take to prepare their homes, families and businesses.

- **Update your contact info** by visiting [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://pge.com/mywildfirealerts) today to make sure we have your current contact information.
- **Identify backup charging methods** for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers.
- **Plan for any medical needs** like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power.
- **Build or restock your emergency kit** with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.

## Learn More

about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program.



Call us at  
**1-866-743-6589**



Email [wildfire\\_safety@pge.com](mailto:wildfire_safety@pge.com)



Visit [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety)

## Real-Time Monitoring and Intelligence

- **Coordinating prevention and response efforts** by monitoring wildfire risks in real time from our **Wildfire Safety Operations Center**.
- **Adding approximately 1,300 new PG&E weather stations by 2022** to enhance weather forecasting and modeling; real-time data available at [mesowest.utah.edu](http://mesowest.utah.edu).
- **Supporting the installation of nearly 600 high-definition cameras** in high fire-threat areas by 2022, increasing coverage across high fire-risk areas to more than 90 percent; current images available at [alertwildfire.org](http://alertwildfire.org).



## System Hardening and Resiliency

- **Installing stronger and more resilient poles and covered power lines** in the highest fire-risk areas over the course of the next 10 years, reducing the likelihood of damage from debris, animals and birds.
- **Replacing equipment to further reduce wildfire risks and tailoring upgrades** based on terrain and weather conditions using more granular analysis of fire-prone regions.
- **Piloting new resilience zones** to allow PG&E to provide electricity to central community resources serving local customers during a Public Safety Power Shutoff event.



### Learn More

For the latest on PG&E's wildfire safety efforts and Public Safety Power Shutoffs, including tips to help you prepare for wildfire season, please visit [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety).

# Community Wildfire Safety Program

Visit [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety) for more information



Given the continued and growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires, as seen in 2017 and 2018, we are **enhancing and expanding our Community Wildfire Safety Program** as an additional precautionary measure to further reduce wildfire risks and **help keep our customers and the communities we serve safe**. The following is an overview of our ongoing and expanded wildfire safety actions.

## New and Enhanced Safety Measures

- **Further enhancing vegetation management efforts** to increase focus on addressing the vegetation that poses a higher potential for wildfire risk, such as overhanging branches and dead and dying trees.
- **Conducting accelerated safety inspections of electric towers and poles** from top to bottom through ground, climbing or helicopter inspections and, in some cases, drones. This is in addition to our routine inspections and maintenance programs.
- **Disabling automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers** on lines in high fire-risk areas during wildfire season.
- **Proactively turning off electric power for safety when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted (Public Safety Power Shutoff)**, and helping customers prepare by providing early warning notification when possible.

## Do You Have a Plan to Stay Safe During Wildfires?

The threat of extreme weather and wildfires continues to grow. Below are some steps to help keep you, your family and your home safe.



**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION** by visiting [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://pge.com/mywildfirealerts)



**PREPARE & PRACTICE** a plan to make sure everyone in your home knows what to do during an emergency



**CREATE & REFRESH** your emergency kit with supplies to last a week in waterproof containers



**MAINTAIN DEFENSIBLE SPACE** around your home by regularly trimming bushes and trees