

ALERT: PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff to Impact Customers in 17 Counties

OCTOBER 25, 2019

NOTE: The following is an update to the Alert issued on October 10 and provides expanded details specifically on loss control measures to address potential exposures associated with the power shutoffs. For information on insurance implications, please refer to the October 10 Alert or contact your Aon client executive or any of the contacts listed in the Alert.

On Oct. 23, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) implemented a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) in 15 counties in the Sierra Foothills and North Bay — Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sonoma, Tehama and Yuba — impacting about 178,000 customers in those areas.

Additional power shutoffs planned for portions of San Mateo County, affecting about 1,000 customers, and Kern County, affecting about 30 customers, were expected to begin around 1:00 a.m. (PDT) Thursday, Oct. 24.

According to PG&E, the current PSPS is expected to impact approximately 179,000 customers in 17 counties. Furthermore, PG&E noted that additional customers not impacted by PSPS may experience power outages due to PG&E equipment damaged during the wind event; those customers will not be notified in advance.

PG&E is maintaining a list of impacted customer counts and cities per county at pge.com/pspsupdates.

Managing Potential Risks of Power Outages

If businesses and other entities have not done so already, they should consider taking the following measures to prepare for a potential power outage.

Emergency Plan Implementation

Review and activate your emergency plan, paying close attention to ensure the following:

- Personnel with assigned responsibilities will be able to get to the facility during a power outage.
- Your communication plan is established and includes options for reaching key contacts in the event they are directly affected by a power outage.

- All power down procedures are up to date.
- Your plan for return to operation upon power restoration is in place.

Power Generators and Battery Maintenance

- Secure generators, check fuel levels and make sure there is adequate fuel. Keep in mind that generators should be tested periodically to make sure they are in good operating condition.
- Similarly, check UPS and battery backups. They may not have been routinely tested and may be subject to failure, possibly causing fires and exacerbating exposures.
- Ensure emergency lighting is operational.
- Check that computer systems are backed up and all critical information contained in back-up files is current.

Security and Fire Safety Measures

- As practical, consider offsite warehousing of any products that may be affected by loss of temperature/humidity controls.
- Alternatively, consider using reefer trucks and/or dry ice for maintaining appropriate temperature control to protect inventory and equipment during an outage.
- Similarly, if building is to be vacated and time permits, consider removing valuable equipment.
- Secure all doors and windows and consider restricting access with fencing. Note that normal alarm and access control systems will not be functioning during an outage.
- Increase security rounds (as CCTV systems may be inoperable).
- If facility is to be idled or vacated, advise local law enforcement and request additional patrols.
- A power outage is likely to result in impaired fire protection systems; to address potential risks, establish a fire watch along with other impairment program requirements.

We're here to empower results:

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- Because alarm systems/alarm transmissions may be interrupted, ensure an individual is assigned to contact the local fire department in the event of a fire.
- Be sure critical electrical equipment remains switched off, so it will not be adversely impacted by surges when the power is restored.
- Trim foliage on property and evaluate risks of any combustibles on premises, including any being stored away from building; if appropriate, consider relocating to indoors or other location to minimize potential fire hazards.
- Eliminate any hot work or hazardous operations.

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