

**County of Plumas
Emergency Operations Plan**

FUNCTIONAL ANNEX K

Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS)

*Plumas County Disaster Council Approved 07/21/2020
Plumas County Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS) 07/21/2020*

JULY 2019 TEMPORARY ANNEX - K

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Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Plan

Overview

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program was developed and implemented by the California Public Utilities Commission in conjunction in utility companies, including PG&E, in 2018 and 2019. The goal of the program is to mitigate wildfire risk from electrical lines starts during high risk weather events.

A PSPS may occur when the following criteria are met:

- Red Flag Warning issued
- Low humidity levels: 20% & below
- Winds: Sustained above 25 mph with gusts of approximately 45 mph
- Dry vegetation fuels
- On the ground and weather camera observations indicate potential issues

Electrical lines, distribution and transmission, that pass through high fire threat area (tier 2 and 3 areas) may be de-energized. Transmission lines may provide power to substations that feed distribution lines in low fire threat areas (tier 1), causing loss of power in tier 1 areas.

Plumas County does have tier 3, extreme fire danger areas mainly located on the west side of Quincy, the parts of the Feather River Canyon and the LaPorte area. Tier 2, high fire risk, runs on the western foothills and mountain of Plumas County, impacting the communities of Quincy, Indian Valley and the Lake Almanor Basin. The remainder of Plumas County is Tier 1, low fire risk. While we have limited designated tier 2/3 designation, many transmission lines that provide bulk electricity to our substations run through tier 2 and 3 designated areas. While residents in high fire threat areas are more likely to be impacted by PSPS, the entire community is at risk for a PSPS related outage.

De-energization of the electrical system may pose life-safety risk to residents and impact other infrastructure systems. De-energization may also impact the capabilities of local agencies to respond to wildfire due to loss of communications systems including internet and cellular towers, inability to monitor or maintain water supplies, and a loss of traffic control systems that could support evacuation. This PSPS plan is intended to provide guidance to local governments, county departments, and public safety agencies in how to prepare for and respond to PSPS events.

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Potential Impacts of PSPS

General:

- Loss of commercial and public-sector communications systems including wireless voice/data, land mobile radio, cable television and internet
- Loss or degradation of public/private water and wastewater systems including monitoring, pumping, and treatment
- Loss of traffic monitoring systems and signals
- Impacts on critical facilities including public safety and hospitals
- Impacts on commerce including loss or degradation of electronic points of sale, gas station pumps, security systems, and refrigeration

Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Populations:

- Loss of power could significantly impact individuals dependent on durable medical equipment, wheelchair charging, and specialized communication devices
- Potential disruptions to public services or facilities; schools closures, reception centers, emergency shelter activations, or cooling centers

Safety:

- Loss or degradation of public safety agency voice and data communications systems including Land Mobile Radio (LMR) and fire watch cameras
- Loss or degradation of community alert and warning systems including internet and wireless data/cellular
- Increase Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) call volumes
- Potential EMS and medical facility patient surge from heat related illness, dehydration or loss of power to medical equipment.
- Loss or degradation of fire suppression water supply systems
- Unsafe use of generators as alternate power supply
- Potential impact to food safety due to degraded refrigeration or unsafe preparation
- Loss of traffic monitoring systems and signals

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Objectives

1. Provide protection of life, public health, safety, and welfare to the community and responders.
2. Maintain situational awareness on any potential de-energization-related impacts to the area; provide regular updates to Operational Area partners and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).
3. Establish thresholds for notifications, coordination efforts, activations, increased staffing, etc.
4. Communicate with and advise potentially impacted communities.
5. Establish and maintain communications among PG&E, the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC), field resources, and Operational Area stakeholders.
6. Establish mass care and shelter services if needed. Coordinate Heating/Cooling Resource Center (CRC) location selections with PG&E. Include COVID safety precaution planning in accordance with state and county stay at home orders.
7. Prepare for increased demand for preparedness information on power outages.
8. Communicate with PG&E regarding affected areas to facilitate public information and to prioritize resumption of services.

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Notifications

PG&E Notifications

PG&E will begin notifications as soon as a PSPS is planned for a defined area, typically 24 to 48 hours prior to power shutoff.

PG&E will conduct notifications to:

- City, county and state officials and designated public safety agencies and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in impacted areas prior to public and media notifications, when possible.
 - Notification will include pertinent information including identification of the area of impact, number of customers that will be impacted, access to event maps, and schedule of operational period conference calls for the event.
- Impacted Customers
 - Send Word Now mass notification system will be utilized as primary notification of customers by PG&E.
 - Medical baseline customers that did not receive a confirmed alert will receive a follow up phone call or in-person notification from a PG&E representative
- Media Outlets

Cal-OES Notifications

Cal-OES will conduct notifications to Plumas County Sheriff's Office – OES and provide pertinent event details including schedule of operational period conference calls.

Plumas County Operational Area Notifications

Plumas County Sheriff's Office – OES will be the lead agency for the Operational Area for notification, situational updates and public information. PCSO-OES, or when activated the OA EOC, will provide:

- **Notification, situation overview, and on-going incident updates to critical partners including:**
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire
 - EMS
 - City and County officials
 - Plumas County Public Health Agency
 - Plumas County Social Services
 - Healthcare Facilities
 - Partner agencies serving Access and Functional Needs
 - Community Services Districts and water agencies
 - School Districts

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- **Notification and updates to residents**
 - Based on the area of impact and anticipated level of impact, one or multiple modes of public notification may be employed:
 - CodeRED alert - CodeRED will be used to send either geographically targeted alerts to the defined impact area or as a mass notification system
 - IPAWS (Integrated Public Warning and Alert) if situation warrants
 - Social Media - (PCSO Facebook, Plumas News) will be used to provide event information and to share PG&E provided information and messaging
 - Messaging may include:
 - Pre-event/initial notification and preparedness steps
 - Incident updates
 - Public access points for critical services (cooling, medical charging, water etc.) if activated.
 - Closure of services to incident (public offices, healthcare services etc.)
 - Public information lines (PG&E 877-660-6789 and the county information line.)
 - Termination of incident and/or incident related special services

Response Activities

Response activities will be tiered to the level duration of impact. Response may be scaled up or down based on changing incident.

Sheriff's Office – OES

- **Receive initial notification of a PSPS event**
 - Obtain situational awareness on the incident to determine:
 - Time of outage and approximate duration
 - Population and area to be impacted by the outage
 - Weather report
 - Access the PG&E First Responder/PSPS portal to download maps and access GIS map files
- **Assess level of anticipated impact**

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- **Determine level of activation**

Level 3 activation – Minimal Activation (Duty Officer or virtual/limited staff EOC)

- Monitor & Assess situation
- Use this level of activation when initial report is for a limited scope PSPS and anticipated impacts are minimal
 - Limited impact anticipated accompanied with limited heat impact
 - Access to standard designated public venue Cooling Zones remains available if activated
 - Limited impact to critical infrastructure (water, healthcare facilities, PSAPs etc.)
 - Small population of impact OR limited duration of outage
- Scale up response as necessary

Level 2 activation – Moderate Activation (Limited staff activation can be scaled up to a small to moderate EOC activation)

- Monitor, assess and conduct moderate response activities
- Use this level of activation when the initial report anticipates a moderate to large scope of impact:
 - Area and population of impact
 - Duration of the anticipated impact is multiple days
 - High heat or cold weather accompanies outage
 - Heating/Cooling/medical charging center is necessary
 - Critical infrastructure will be impacted by the outage (water, healthcare facilities, PSAPs etc.)
- Scale up response if the duration, extent of impact, or critical infrastructure failures occur (loss of water, loss of generator power, etc.)

Level 1 activation – High Activation (EOC activation)

- Incident will require response operations
- Use this level when extensive impact is predicted or occurring:
 - Large area impact including multiple communities
 - Duration is expected to be multiple days
 - High heat or cold weather accompanies outage
 - Designated public venue Heating/Cooling Zones are inoperable due to loss of power
 - Heating/Cooling/medical charging center with backup generation is required
 - Loss of critical infrastructure due to outage (water, sewer, gas stations, healthcare facilities, communications etc.)
 - Loss of generator power on critical infrastructure (healthcare facilities, jail, PSAPs, governmental buildings including EOC, communications etc.)

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- **Develop initial situation report & Conduct notifications**
 - Brief SO-OES Command staff
 - Notify critical partners (see list in previous section) and provide initial situation report
 - Set a schedule for ongoing situation updated and notifications
 - Provide partners with contact information
 - ***If Level 2 or 1 activation is planned, notify critical partners in the impact zone by phone*** (healthcare facilities, PSAPs, public safety)
 - Ensure partners have fuel for generators
 - Ensure partners plan for outage accordingly
 - Conduct public notifications (refer to notification section)

- **Activate response structure consistent with the Level of Activation**
 - If activating the EOC, refer to the EOP.

- **Determine whether public Heating/Cooling Center and/or medical charging center activation is necessary.** One of the following options may be employed:
 - ***Option 1***- Identify a Heating/Cooling Zone that is already operational that can be provided as an option for the impacted population
 - ***Option 2*** - Identify a location such as a shelter site outside the impacted area that has power to open as a Heating/Cooling center and medical device charging location
 - ***Option 3*** - If outage is widespread, Memorial Halls or other locations may be opened as a Heating/Cooling Center/medical charging location (generator power). Coordinate with PG&E for pre-designated Community Resource Centers
 - OES will contact the appropriate staff should Option 2 or Option 3 be employed to activate a small shelter team to open and staff the cooling center/medical charging
 - A heating/cooling/charging site may be daytime operational only, with the hours set by the needs of the incident.
 - Services may be limited to cooling and charging of medical equipment

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- **Monitor and assess the ongoing incident**
 - Participate in Cal-OES and PG&E operational period briefings and conference calls
 - Provide updates to staff, partners and the public as necessary
 - Continue to gather information on community and critical facility impacts throughout the duration of the incident
 - Coordinate any response related activities
 - Determine if local emergency proclamation is needed to address the incident response
 - Coordinate with Public Health and Social Services, any public safety/welfare checks on identified medical needs/Access and Functional Needs residents
 - Maintain function of emergency services operations (refuel generators for SO-OES equipment and sites)
 - Coordinate additional security needs for response operations
 - Identify and coordinate any evacuation operations

- **Terminate the incident**
 - Update staff, partners, and public at incident termination and through restoration
 - Demobilize any response related assets (EOC, centers/shelters, etc.)
 - Recondition and resupply any equipment or caches used in the response (generators, shelter supplies, etc.)
 - Collect information and feedback from partners on the response and incorporate into an After Action Report (if required for the incident)

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Public Health Agency (PCPHA)

- Activate the Emergency Preparedness Unit, Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), as needed for the incident
- Staff the Medical Health Branch of the EOC, if activated
- Support Social Services Shelter Team as needed
- MHOAC:
 - Collect and assess situational awareness from impacted healthcare facilities
 - Monitor impacts on healthcare facilities
 - Monitor health related impacts of the incident
 - Provide situational awareness to Healthcare Facilities
 - Provide situational awareness on health and medical impacts to the Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) and to PCSO-OES
 - Identify and address any medical-health resource needs
- Coordinate with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) partners to identify, contact and provide access to any needed services for any Access and Functional Needs (AFN)/medical needs residents that are pre-identified by local resources and/or PG&E baseline medical registry
 - Coordinate with Law Enforcement for any necessary welfare checks or service calls
- Recondition & resupply any equipment used in the incident response at demobilization

Social Services

- **Activate the Shelter Team, as needed for the incident**
- Staff the Care and Shelter Branch of the EOC, if activated
- Provide care and shelter for evacuees and coordinate efforts with volunteer agencies
- Coordinate with Public Health MHOAC
- **As directed by OES, activate heating/cooling/medical charging centers or other shelter type sites**
- Coordinate with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) partners to identify, contact and provide access to any needed services for any Access and Functional Needs (AFN)/medical needs residents that are pre-identified by local resources
- Coordinate with Law Enforcement for any necessary welfare checks or service calls
- Recondition & resupply any equipment used in the incident response at demobilization

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County Planning & Public Works

- Identify critical infrastructure in impact zone
- Monitor and maintain critical infrastructure that is owned and operated by the entity throughout the duration of the incident
- Assist OES/EOC with mapping and GIS needs of the incident
- Monitor and assess impacts to transportation
 - Provide information to OES/EOC on transportation impacts
 - Conduct safety related closures of impacted routes
 - Support incident related transportation needs
- Staff the Transportation and/or Public Works Branch of the EOC, if activated
- Recondition & resupply any equipment used in the incident response at demobilization

Fire

- Monitor and assess impacts to fire detection/reporting and response capabilities
- Monitor and assess potential impacts to fire suppression water supply system
- Prepare to respond to increased calls for medical aid
- As needed, assist with medical needs resident welfare checks
- Staff the Fire Branch of the EOC, if activated
- Monitor and assess for impacts to fire public safety communication networks and PSAPs
- Recondition & resupply any equipment used in the incident response at demobilization

County Executive Management

- Identify impacts to county buildings and operations
 - Identify essential services and plan for continuity of operations
 - Identify sites with backup power or sites that are outside the impacted area
 - When the outage impacts county offices during normal operational hours, determine a plan for: closure of offices, non-emergency operations county staff, and public notification of limited services
- Assist Sheriff's Office – Assist OES with resolutions to issues that may arise from the incident.

Office of Education/School Districts

- Monitor and assess potential impacts to school facilities and systems
- Communicate situational awareness received from the SO/OES to the schools, as needed
 - Provide relevant information to school staff and parents
 - Participate in the Joint Information System – coordinate with OES or the EOC (when activated) to ensure messaging is non-competing, and unified
- Determine a plan for school operations based on outage location, time and duration

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Priority Restoration

The following is a list of Critical and Essential Facilities for which the loss of electrical service may have significant impacts to public health and safety. The need for priority restoration of power is identified based on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being lower in the priority list. This list and level of priority may change at any time based on the incident and if the facility loses its ability for backup generation power.

Level 1 Priority – Highest

- Acute medical hospital – Plumas District Hospital, Seneca Hospital and Eastern Plumas District Hospital
- PCSO Jail
- Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) – Sheriff’s Office
- Public Safety Communications (radios) – Mike Grant
- Operational Area EOC
- Fleet fuel locations

Level 2 Priority

- Water Systems – Chester PUD, Indian Valley CSD, American Valley CSD and others in PSREC territory
- Sewage Systems – See above
- Communication Systems – Telecommunications, information technology
- Transportation – airports, railroad crossings, critical intersections
- Community Center Sites – Designated Heating/Cooling Zones and Shelter Sites

Level 3 Priority

- Schools
- Essential local government buildings
- Other critical community infrastructure that may delivery essential services such as food, fuel etc.

PSPS Portal

PG&E has developed a secure web portal for first responders and other essential local government staff to access sensitive information including infrastructure maps, outage maps, and medical needs resident information.

The County has entered into a Non-Disclosure Agreement with PG&E to obtain access to this incident information. The County has pre-identified staff with access to this secure portal. County staff access is managed by Sheriff-OES.

Response staff who needs access to this program should contact Sheriff’s Office – OES for more information and for the list of approved staff.