

Options for Consideration in the Face of Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff 2020

<p>Update and verify contact information for your partners and stakeholders. Contact your power utility and connect with your assigned account manager/customer service representative. Discuss their Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) processes and how/when you will be alerted before the PSPS is implemented. Register to be alerted. Refer to the prepare for powerdown webpage for more information on how to better prepare for PSPS - https://prepareforpowerdown.com/. Learn more from your energy company and the resources that they offer by following the links below:</p> <p>Southern California Edison (SCE) information Visit https://www.sce.com/safety/wildfire/pssp Phone: 1-800-655-4555 https://marketplace.sce.com/</p> <p>San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) information Visit https://www.sdge.com/wildfire-safety/public-safety-power-shutoffs Phone: 1-800-411-7343 https://marketplace.sdge.com/</p> <p>Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) information Visit https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff-faq.page email - wildfiresafety@pge.com Phone: 1-866-743-6589 https://marketplace.pge.com/</p>	
<p>Establish or join mutual assistance/aid networks. Join the California Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) at its webpage – www.CalWARN.org. There is strength and expertise in a network. Resources can be sought among fellow water sector members and be brought to bear to address the needs.</p>	
<p>Review and update the Emergency Response Plan. Consider including a section or annex on managing a long-term power outage; consider critical customers. Review and verify emergency communications plan – contact information for critical partners, such as Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC), Fire, Law, Public Health, SWRCB DDW District Engineer, Local Primacy Agency contact, many others. Review the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) processes internal and external. Consider staff accountability. Understand how to identify needs and request resources.</p>	

<p>Review and prepare notifications and messages to customers, partners, and stakeholders for situations such as precautionary boil water notices due to loss of pressure and compromised system. The SWRCB DDW has templates for unsafe water alerts posted on its webpage - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Notices.html. Prepare the customer service personnel to receive incoming calls from customers during a PSPS and have ready helpful guidance.</p>	 <p>The image shows a yellow triangular warning sign with a red exclamation mark at the top. Below the exclamation mark are three wavy lines representing steam or boiling water. At the bottom of the triangle is a blue water tap icon. The text 'BOIL WATER' is written in bold black letters at the top, and 'Advisory in Effect' is written in smaller red letters below it.</p>
<p>Review the drinking water distribution system. Consider how or where to move water with no power. Prioritize facilities. Locate and exercise valves so that they may be used when called upon. Locate single points of failure and determine how to mitigate such vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Prioritize sources, treatment, facilities, resources, and essential functions under the conditions of extended power outage and wildfires. Establish critical personnel shift schedules so can implement when needed.</p>	 <p>The image contains two parts. The top part is a diagram of a water distribution system showing a water tower, pipes, and houses. The bottom part is a checklist titled 'Critical Functions' with a red pen and a clipboard icon. The checklist has several items with checkboxes, though the text is small.</p>
<p>Secure or acquire necessary emergency generators for the critical functions. Consider mobile equipment for increased flexibility. Plan for fueling and operation for an extended time in case of long power outage. Consider fuel for both emergency generators and emergency vehicles. Contact your electric utility if they have resources to assist.</p>	 <p>The image shows a red portable generator with a black handle and a fuel tank on the side.</p>
<p>Establish and maintain the 100 feet (or more) defensible space around critical facilities. Learn more about wildfires and defensible space at the following CalFire webpage - https://www.fire.ca.gov/ and review/verify multiple ingress and ingress pathways.</p>	 <p>The image is a diagram showing a house surrounded by a green area representing defensible space. There are trees and bushes around the house, and a red fire flame is shown nearby, illustrating the concept of defensible space.</p>
<p>Stay tuned to the local news for updates. Keep an eye on the climate. National Weather Service webpage - https://www.weather.gov/. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration webpage - https://www.noaa.gov/. Consider signing-up for the CA Resiliency notices at their webpage - www.CAresiliency.org – they have been collecting and compiling good information from multiple sources.</p>	 <p>The image shows logos for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the National Weather Service. Below the logos is a graphic with the word 'MEDIA' at the top and four arrows pointing to 'INTERNET', 'RADIO', 'TELEVISION', and 'MAGAZINES/NEWSPAPERS'.</p>
<p>Have an awareness of the High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD) and how wildfires in such areas may affect you and your public water system from the CPUC webpage - https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/</p>	 <p>The image is a map of California with several areas highlighted in red and orange, indicating High Fire Threat Districts. A legend in the top right corner explains the color coding.</p>

<p>Report status to the SWRCB DDW District Engineer and the Local Primacy Agency. You can see the District Office contact and location at the SWRCB webpage - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/</p>	
<p>Consider registering for Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards. Get more information from their webpage - https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets. GETS provides national security and emergency preparedness personnel priority access and prioritized processing in the local and long-distance segments of the landline networks, greatly increasing the probability of call completion.</p>	
<p>Consider using the USEPA guidance - Incident Action Checklist – Wildfire – at their webpage - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/wildfire.pdf. The actions in this checklist are divided up into three “rip & run” sections and are examples of activities that water and wastewater utilities can take to: prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfires. For on-the-go convenience, you can also populate the “My Contacts” section with critical information that your utility may need during an incident. There are also incident action checklist for other concerns such as power outage and pandemic here - https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/incident-action-checklists-water-utilities.</p>	
<p>Consider using the Water Utility Response On-The-Go Mobile Application and Website - https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/water-utility-response-go-mobile-application-and-website. Install the Response On-The-Go App on your Apple or Android Mobile Device. The Water Utility Response On-The-Go App consolidates and makes accessible from the field, information and tools that water utility operators and their response partners may need during an emergency. Downloading Response On-The-Go can help responders and stakeholders increase situational awareness, facilitate coordination, and enhance overall response efforts.</p>	
<p>Register with the US Army Corp of Engineers - Emergency Power Facility Assessment Tool (EPFAT). The EPFAT is a secure web-based tool that can be used by critical public facility owners/operators, or emergency response agencies, to input, store, update and/or view temporary emergency power assessment data. Having pre-installation assessment data in advance will expedite USACE’s abilities to provide temporary power. The EPFAT Factsheet is found at this webpage - https://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/Emergency%20Ops/Nationa</p>	

<p>I%20Response%20Framework/power/EPFAT Fact Sheet 21 April 2015.pdf</p>	
<p>Conduct tabletop exercises (TTX) with partners and stakeholders to verify actions to be implemented and determine if there any gaps that need to be filled. USEPA has TTX tools to assist public water systems be better prepared at this webpage - https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/develop-and-conduct-water-resilience-tabletop-exercise-water-utilities.</p>	
<p>COVID-19 pandemic considerations – maintain the health and safety of the work force; review and ascertain chemical, materials, and equipment supply chains; message and communicate with customers including processes to implement prior to reactivating buildings. You can get the latest information on COVID-19 from numerous sources including the CDPH (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx), CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html), and the SWRCB (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/covid-19_updates/ and https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/covid-19.html).</p>	