

# PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

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## DECISION-MAKING FACTORS

During elevated weather conditions when there is a high risk for a wildfire, we may temporarily shut off power to prevent our electric system from becoming the source of an ignition.

Climate change is increasing the severity and duration of fire season with a greater frequency of catastrophic fires across California.

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our communities. Public Safety Power Shutoffs are one preventative measure to help protect our communities against wildfires.

### PRIOR TO A SHUTOFF

We understand the impact that turning off power can have on our customers. We will only shut off power when weather conditions pose a significant threat — such as strong winds that may cause debris to be blown into wires, possibly igniting a fire.

We use several tools to monitor current conditions before shutting off a circuit.



#### OUR WEATHER NETWORK

We have installed more than 850 weather stations in our fire-prone areas. They provide wind speed and gusts, temperature, humidity and solar radiation readouts every 10 minutes.



#### VEGETATION MOISTURE SAMPLING

Moisture sampling is the main factor in determining how susceptible the vegetation is to fire. SCE's fire science expert analyzes fuel moisture from wet and dry brush to better predict the chances of an ignition becoming a larger wildfire. The data is also shared with fire agencies and the public through the National Fuel Moisture Database.



#### SUPERCOMPUTING TECHNOLOGY

SCE uses high-performance computing technology to run high-resolution weather and fuel models twice a day. This modeling helps pinpoint where and when critical conditions may occur that can lead to catastrophic fires.



#### FIRE DANGER INDEXES

In addition to our internal Fire Potential Index, we use a variety of indices from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Weather Service and other government agencies to help accurately assess fire danger across our service area on a daily basis.

## PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF: THE DECISION PROCESS



### **FORECASTING THE WEATHER**

Before a power shutoff happens, SCE meteorologists will begin, up to a week in advance of a predicted severe weather condition, running computerized weather simulations of expected conditions. They will look at more than 80 variables like temperature, projected wind speed, relative humidity and how dry vegetation is throughout SCE's 50,000-square-mile service area. This information is then combined with our Fire Potential Index to better assess and determine the potential risk.

### **ACTIVATING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS**

In advance of elevated weather and fire conditions, we activate our Emergency Operations Center up to three days prior to the forecasted weather event. SCE emergency management and response teams use the center to monitor a power shutoff event and coordinate decisions.

### **FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

As we continue monitoring the weather, we deploy our crews to observe critical locations. SCE crews use drones, helicopters and on-the-ground patrolling to visually inspect our power lines and facilities. Typically, they are looking for damaged or weakened wires, poles and surrounding trees that could potentially fall from strong winds. The number of poles, transformers and lines in SCE's high fire risk areas is about 400,000.

### **ROUND-THE-CLOCK ASSESSMENT**

As the weather and operational conditions progress, our emergency management teams monitor on-the-ground conditions 24/7 and take appropriate actions to diminish any fire threat.

### **TURNING THE POWER OFF**

Over the past several years, we have invested in a smarter, stronger grid to help reduce the number of customers impacted by power shutoffs. By upgrading and modernizing the grid and dividing the grid into sections, we are reducing the scale of PSPS events. Combined with our weather technology and modeling, we are improving our ability to impact as few customers as necessary. In 2019, an estimated 3.5% of our 5 million customers were impacted by a power shutoff due to PSPS. More than half of these outages occurred during a severe wind event in October.

Power will only be shut off after the weather data, confirmed by SCE crews in the field, show there is an imminent danger of objects such as tree limbs, palm fronds or other vegetation blowing into power lines. The shutoff will be done in consultation with local officials and emergency response personnel such as local fire departments. It is not a decision we take lightly. It is done to keep you and your community safe.

### **POWER RESTORATION**

It is difficult to predict the duration of a power shutoff event. It depends on a range of factors, including the duration of strong winds, time it takes our crews to patrol the lines and possible damage along with repairs needed to our system while the power was out. We will restore power once it is safe to do so.

## PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF: DECISION TIMELINE

<b>4-7 DAYS AHEAD</b>	When forecasts indicate extreme weather, SCE will begin predictive modeling to assess potential impact.	PLANNING AND MONITORING
<b>3 DAYS AHEAD</b>	SCE will monitor government-issued indices that may signify an impending critical weather event. Internal predictive weather models are refined. The PSPS Incident Management Team (IMT) is activated.	
<b>2 DAYS AHEAD</b>	Critical or extreme fire weather conditions are forecasted. Coordinate with local government and emergency responders first. Initiate notifications on possible power shutoff.	
<b>1 DAY AHEAD</b>	Extreme fire weather conditions imminent; continued modeling and more accurate forecasts determine affected areas. Continue to coordinate and communicate with local government, agencies and customers of possible power shutoff.	
<b>PLANNING AND MONITORING POWER SHUTOFF</b>	Extreme fire weather present and dangerous conditions validated by field resources; notify local government, agencies and customers of power shutoff.	OUTAGE
<b>POWER RESTORATION</b>	Extreme fire weather subsides to safe levels and conditions validated by field resources; inspections and patrols of equipment begin, then power is restored to affected communities; agencies and customers notified of power restoration.	

### KEEPING CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES INFORMED

Each year in advance of fire season, SCE meets with local officials in high fire risk areas to discuss Public Safety Power Shutoffs, critical infrastructure and community resiliency needs.

That dialogue continues before, during and after a Public Safety Power Shutoff. We notify public safety authorities, first responders, affected communities and local municipalities in impacted areas.

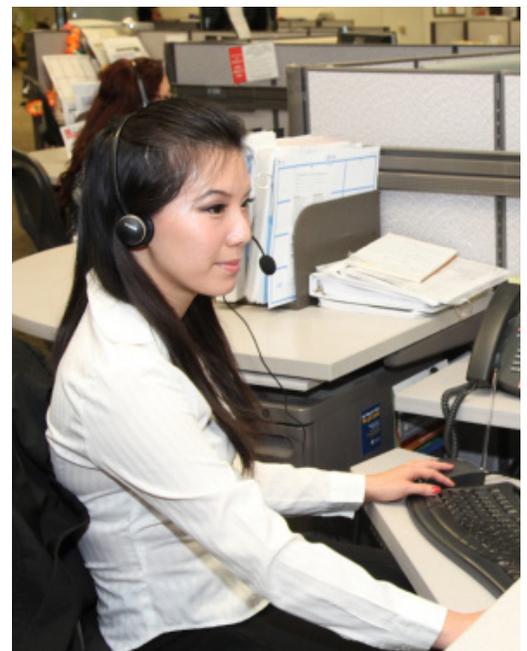
#### NOTIFYING CUSTOMERS

We will always make every attempt to alert customers two days and one day in advance of a shutoff event, prior to shutting off power and when power is being restored. These notifications are sent via email, text or phone call.

We also provide regular updates through social media, local news, radio and our website at [sce.com/psps](https://www.sce.com/psps) and [energized.edison.com](https://www.energized.edison.com).

We urge customers to update their contact information and sign up for PSPS alerts at [sce.com/outagealerts](https://www.sce.com/outagealerts). You can also sign up for PSPS alerts using a [zip code](#).

We also encourage customers to visit [sce.com/beprepared](https://www.sce.com/beprepared) for tips to help you prepare for outages and lessen the impact until the lights come back on.



## REACHING VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS

We reach out to our most vulnerable populations and the organizations that support them. We realize that emergency situations like power outages may disproportionately affect some customers more than others (e.g., people with disabilities, seniors, children and those with limited English proficiency). We communicate power shutoff notifications to customers through their preferred method of contact and in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog.

We take special care to reach our most vulnerable critical care customers before a shutoff occurs. We start with email, text or phone call. If we don't speak to you or a family member directly or receive confirmation that the email or text we send is delivered, we will follow up with additional phone calls. If a phone call is not successful, we will attempt to notify you in person at your address.

If you or someone in your home depends on electrically powered medical equipment, you should plan to have a backup power source, such as an uninterruptible power supply or a backup location in case of a power outage. You may also be eligible for SCE's Medical Baseline program. Learn about the program and how to apply at [sce.com/medicalbaseline](https://sce.com/medicalbaseline).



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES DURING A SHUTOFF

### COMMUNITY CREW VEHICLES

During power shutoff events, we will deploy Community Crew Vehicles to locations near affected areas. The vehicles are staffed with SCE personnel to answer questions about the specific power shutoff. They are also equipped with water, light snacks and backup power so customers can charge their personal mobile devices and continue to receive updates about the outage.

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

During extended outages, we will staff temporary community centers in communities near affected areas. These pop-up centers will allow customers to power up their personal mobile devices and, where available, to have access to Wi-Fi. Customers will also have access to water and light snacks, a sitting area, restrooms, and updated information on the proactive power shutoff. Hours of operation will typically range from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. when the power is off.

The Community Crew Vehicles and Community Resource Centers will be communicated via [sce.com](https://sce.com), social media and [energized.edison.com](https://energized.edison.com).



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SCE has contingency plans for services provided by its Community Crew Vehicles, Customer Resource Centers and additional employee-led programs and services. These are typically deployed during PSPS events with special considerations for public health concerns, including physical distancing requirements.

SCE's wildfire mitigation efforts  
[sce.com/wildfire](https://sce.com/wildfire)

Preparing for an outage  
[sce.com/beprepared](https://sce.com/beprepared)

Power outage and fire recovery resources  
[response.ca.gov](https://response.ca.gov)

