



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **County Prepares for Potential Power Shutoff**

*PG&E notifies County staff of possible temporary service disruption*

**SAN RAFAEL, CA** – Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has notified the County that it may activate its [Public Safety Power Shutoff](#) (PSPS) protocols in response to a high wind event and Red Flag Warning. At 7:30am this morning, PG&E said it could potentially initiate a planned power shutoff in parts of Marin County between 1pm and 5pm on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. PG&E estimated that [86,813 metered locations](#) within Marin would be affected by a possible PSPS. The duration of the shutoff is unknown and will be determined by PG&E.

The [Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services](#) is putting into motion its Electrical System De-energization Response Plan. Additionally, it is coordinating with nearby response partners in monitoring the power situation. The Emergency Operations Center will be activated in the event of the Public Safety Power Shutoff.

"We are being proactive and mobilizing our resources due to the potential power loss and increased fire threat," said Supervisor Kate Sears, President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. "Public safety is our No. 1 priority, and we will focus our efforts to ensure the safety and security of our residents – especially those with access and functional needs whose health could be impacted by the loss of power."

The planned duration of the possible shutoff is unknown and will be determined by PG&E. "We'll work alongside PG&E's staff to communicate updates using all our outreach tools," Supervisor Sears said.

PG&E is monitoring [weather patterns](#) and said it will provide updates to customers and the County of Marin as additional information is available. Residents and businesses can access updated PSPS information from PG&E online at [www.pge.com/pspsupdates](http://www.pge.com/pspsupdates).

All questions regarding PSPS events and extended outages should be directed to PG&E via their website and (866) 743-6589. **Please only call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing a medical or life-threatening emergency.**



### **Contact:**

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For non-emergency information and referrals, contact [211 Bay Area](#) by calling 2-1-1 or text MARINSHUTOFF to 898-211 (or MARINAPAGON to 898-211 for Spanish speaking residents). In addition, vulnerable adults can check Marin County Health & Human Services' [online community resource guide](#) for additional information.

### **911 VS 211**

**Call 911** for an immediate response from police, fire department, or emergency medical service teams, for crimes happening now, suspicious activity, and life-threatening emergencies.

**Call 211** to find resources on non-emergency event information like community resource center locations, power shutoff area updates, and other social services.

Emergency Management officials remind residents and visitors that it is important to have a plan to adjust daily routines to one without PG&E power. FEMA recommends the following steps:

### **Stay informed**

- Sign up to receive safety information on Nixle by texting your ZIP code to 888-777.
- Sign up for [AlertMarin](#) notifications to receive information on immediate threats to personal safety or property, tailored to an address of your choosing.
- Sign-up for PSPS Zip Code Alerts by texting ENROLL to 97633 or by calling 1-877-9000-PGE.
- Update contact information with PG&E at [www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts) or by calling 1-866-743-6589.

### **Review plans**

- Identify several evacuation routes for your location in case roads are blocked. Tell someone out of the area which routes you plan to use.
- Keep vehicles fueled and ready in case of an evacuation.
- Make a list of what you'll want to take with you if you leave your home quickly. Consider the Five P's of Evacuation: People/Pets; Prescriptions; Papers; Personal Needs; Priceless Items.
- Talk to a medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Take stock of batteries and other alternatives to meet your needs when the power goes out.
- Take inventory of available supplies such as food, water, clothing, and flashlight batteries.
- Have some cash available in case retail point-of-sale devices are unable to accept credit cards during an outage.
- Check thermometers in refrigerators and freezers during an outage. Dispose of perishable food if the appliance temperature reaches 40 degrees or higher for an extended period.

- Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged.
- Know how to manually open electric garage doors and gates.
- For more information, including what to do during a power outage, visit [www.readymarin.org](http://www.readymarin.org) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

The County will continue to share information updates as they become available via **[marincounty.org/emergency](http://marincounty.org/emergency)** and on social media via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@MarinSheriff). As more information becomes available on specific communities affected by the PSPS, that information will be relayed.

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