

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

In recent years, wildfires have intensified in California, and utilities are taking action to reduce fire risks related to utility infrastructure. Under threat of wildfire and extreme weather, a utility may shut off power to electric lines in high threat areas to prevent wildfire. This is called a public safety power shutoff, or PSPS.



The City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) has a wildfire mitigation plan that outlines activities by CPAU and other city departments to mitigate the threat of wildfires associated with overhead electric lines and associated equipment. We have identified the Foothills as the area at an elevated risk for wildfire. The rest of the city is considered at low risk for wildfire or PSPS. We want to make sure you are prepared if the unexpected happens.

What You Can Expect from Us

Wildfire Prevention – Vegetation management, electric line inspections, prioritized maintenance, tree trimming & inspection to prevent contact with electric lines.

Early Warning Notification – The city will aim to send customer alerts if anticipating a potential PSPS.

Ongoing Updates – Through social media, email, phone call, text, website, or AlertSCC.

Safety Inspections – If a PSPS is necessary, CPAU will inspect the lines in affected areas after extreme weather has passed before power is safely restored.

Power Restoration – Power outages could last multiple days depending on weather severity and other factors.

Future Activities – Rebuilding, replacing, rerouting overhead lines & poles; refining construction practices; improving communication systems; coordinating with other utilities.



How You Can Prepare

- Have a personal safety plan in place for every member of your household, including pets.
- Plan for any medical needs, such as medications that need to be refrigerated, or devices that require power.
- Build or restock your emergency supply kit, including food, water, flashlights, a radio, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.
- If you own a backup generator, ensure it is ready to safely operate.
- Sign up to receive AlertSCC notifications at alertscscc.org



In the event of an emergency, dial **9-1-1**. For non-emergency public safety issues, call **(650) 329-2413**.

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