

# PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF:

## DECISION-MAKING

**PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS ARE A TOOL OF LAST RESORT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM THE THREAT OF WILDFIRE.**



**FOR EACH PSPS**

**1** IS THIS SHUTOFF NEEDED TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY?

**2** CAN WE SAFELY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO LOSE POWER?



We consider PSPS when weather and fire experts forecast dangerous conditions, including strong winds, very dry vegetation and low humidity. Combined, these create the risk that flying debris or other damage to our wires and equipment could cause a fire with the potential to spread rapidly.

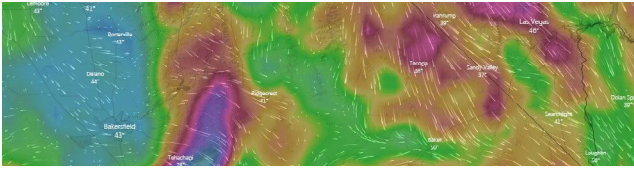


-5 DAYS FORECASTING

-3 DAYS FORECASTING

-2 DAYS FORECASTING

DAY OF THE PSPS EVENT



Our meteorologists and fire scientists continue to review weather conditions, using both internal and external weather models and National Weather Service forecasts, alerts and warnings.



The PSPS Incident Management Team develops a list of circuits that could be impacted. We speak with county offices of emergency management to discuss any public safety issues.



The team is led by an incident commander. Incident commanders undergo continual training for this role and are responsible for all shutoff decisions.

### ! DECISION POINT

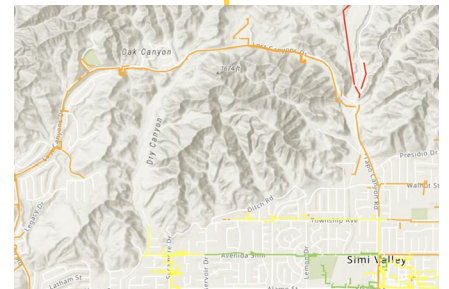
If the weather report is inconclusive, we will wait for additional weather reports or field assessments before we notify customers. We confer with the National Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) about fire danger risk.

### ! DECISION POINT

The PSPS Incident Management Team reviews options for supplying customers with power from different circuits to keep them energized.



Field crews look for factors that could increase the risk of fire such as existing damage or other hazards to poles and wires.



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PSPS EVENT

## DECISION POINT

The Incident Management Team looks at twice-daily weather reports to see if the weather pattern has shifted. As the forecast becomes more precise, we update the list of circuits that might be impacted. If the weather pattern has weakened, or shifted outside of high fire risk areas, we will cancel the event.



We notify customers. We try to visit our Critical Care and Medical Baseline customers who rely on life-saving medical equipment to confirm they have been informed about the event.

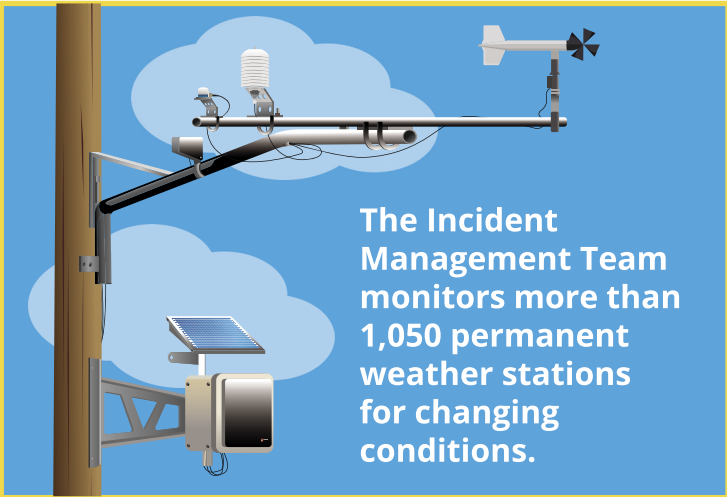
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**3-6 Hours:** Before the winds are forecasted to hit peak speeds, the Incident Management Team begins monitoring conditions. A team, including experts in grid operations, meteorology and fire science, advise the incident commander, who will make the final decisions to shut off power.



The Incident Management Team monitors more than 1,050 permanent weather stations for changing conditions.



As the winds increase, field crews provide mobile weather station reports and report flying debris or other hazards.

-5 DAYS FORECASTING

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PSPS EVENT



## DECISION POINT

### Weather:

Every 10 minutes, weather station readings are updated for each circuit. Meteorologists identify weather trends that could slow or speed up decision-making.



## DECISION POINT

### Grid Operations:

The team looks for opportunities to turn off individual segments of a circuit to keep the rest of the circuit powered.



## DECISION POINT

### Recommendation:

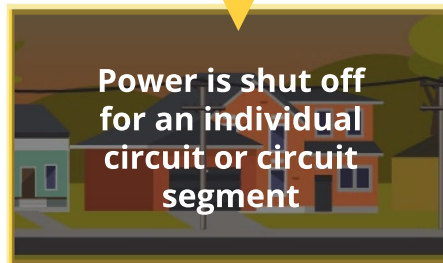
The lead PSPS operator recommends shutting off power to a circuit or segment when wind speeds are about to hit or exceed our predetermined threshold for unsafe conditions, or field crews advise of an urgent hazard in the field.



## DECISION POINT

### Authorization:

The incident commander reviews the recommendation and asks follow-up questions, if necessary, before approving the decision.



AS THE WINDS DIE DOWN,  
POWER IS RESTORED TO  
ALL CUSTOMERS

When dangerous winds diminish, field crews inspect the lines that had been shut off. Usually, this is done by crews in utility trucks. If there is no damage to the lines, electricity will be restored immediately. The average time for restoration in 2020 was five to six hours, excluding lines that were damaged or required air or foot patrol. Some of these patrols will take longer because they must be done in daylight hours.