Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)  
June 2019

**Background**

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) is the practice where Southern California Edison (SCE) shuts off power in high fire risk areas to reduce fire risk during extreme & potentially dangerous fire weather conditions. Debris and tree limbs can be blown into power lines during wind events, which could cause a power interruption (electric wire falls). Depending upon the situation, these interruptions have the potential to generate sparks that could ignite a fire. When strong winds coupled with abundant fuel, dry conditions & difficult to access terrain, fighting fires is difficult.

Preemptively shutting off power is just one SCEs prevention & mitigation strategies to ensure community safety when extreme weather conditions are present. The shutoff will last as long as the extreme & potentially dangerous fire weather conditions exist along w/ additional time to repair/inspect equipment. Frequency of PSPS depends on various weather & environmental factors and follows a typical timeline (https://www.sce.com/safety/wildfire/psps):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Ahead of Event</th>
<th>4-7</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme fire conditions forecasted; SCE does predictive modeling to assess potential impact.</td>
<td>SCE monitors fire weather alerts &amp; refines predictive models; first responders placed on alert</td>
<td>Extreme conditions forecasted</td>
<td>Extreme conditions imminent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Shutoff</td>
<td>Extreme conditions validated</td>
<td>#1 PSPS notification</td>
<td>#2 PSPS notification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Restoration</td>
<td>Extreme fire conditions subside to safe levels; equipment inspected; power restored</td>
<td>#3 PSPS notification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 PSPS notification</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**State & Local Protocols / Orange County**

- OC Control One receives notifications from SCE 24-48 hours in advance of anticipated PSPS events
- County Emergency Operations Center may activate & request status reports from cities, special districts, etc.
- OCEMS maintains situational awareness over medical/health system & will seek frequent status updates from all hospitals to monitor impacts; Hospitals may receive notifications from multiple sources (SCE, CAHAN, etc.)
- Resource requesting follows same protocol established in emergency operations plans

**Hospital Preparedness & Response**

AFL 17-06 - Reporting Emergency or Disaster-Related Occurrences, reminds facilities that licensing regulations require facilities to report all emergency and or disaster-related occurrences that threaten welfare, safety, or health of patients, to CDPH L&C Program. AFL 17-06 (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-17-06.aspx).

**California Regulations** require that a hospital’s emergency lighting & power backup system shall function for a minimum of 24 hours (22CCR70841 Emergency Lighting and Power System). If the PSPS program is in effect and causes the power to go out in a facility, this triggers an “unusual event” as defined in the Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual and response protocol. Outages related to the PSPS are to be reported to the L&C District Office CDPH Orange L&C and to the OC Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) via email emsdutyofficer@ochca.com.

Hospitals should assess the following areas & mitigate risk prior to an event (Hospital Planning for Power Outages):

- Energy usage under normal operating conditions.
- Essential functions and minimum electricity needs and backup generators sized appropriately
- Procedures to prioritize emergency power allocation to key resources (i.e. HVAC, ventilators, patient monitors)
- Emergency generator system tests that assure reliable startup and sustained operation
- Immediate emergency generator fuel amount & continued fuel delivery in the event of an extended power outage