



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: Mendocino County News Media

FR: Mendocino County Executive Office

Ukiah, California: October 27, 2019

Update: PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Restoration for October 26, 2019 through October 28, 2019 Event

The County of Mendocino has been continually monitoring the scope of the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event occurring in Mendocino County. PG&E estimates that over 946,000 customers have been de-energized state-wide. This event is very dynamic, and the County is dependent on PG&E to provide accurate, updated information that can be shared with the public. The County continues to monitor both this PSPS event, as well as fires in neighboring communities, and will continue to communicate information as it becomes available.

Please remember that a Red Flag Warning is in effect today through Monday throughout Northern California due to gusty winds and low humidity. This is critical fire weather and caution should be used when outdoors.

On 10-26-2019 PG&E completed its de-energization of the majority of Mendocino County and will anticipate providing the "all clear" notification to begin restoration of power to those areas on 10-27-2019 around 4 pm in northern Mendocino and on 10-28-2019 around 6 am in southern Mendocino.

The exact restoration time for the specific areas/communities of Mendocino County is unknown at this time and PG&E restoration efforts will occur only during daytime hours.

Important Information From PG&E About Restoration

- Restoring power
 - Before restoring power, PG&E must inspect its equipment for damage and make any necessary repairs. That process cannot begin until the severe weather event has subsided.
 - Given the prolonged period during which the wind event will unfold, and the large number of power line miles that will need to be inspected before restoration, customers are being asked to prepare for an extended outage.
 - PG&E will work with state and local agencies to provide updated restoration timelines following the conclusion of the severe weather event.
- Inspection and Restoration
 - It's important for all customers to have an emergency plan to be prepared for any extended outages due to extreme weather or natural disasters.
 - Each situation will be somewhat different, just like each day's weather.
 - After the extreme weather has passed and it is safe to do so, our crews will work to visually inspect each mile of our power lines to ensure they are free from damage and safe to energize.
 - Inspections will take place during daylight hours and, in most cases, we would expect to be able to restore power within 24 to 48 hours after extreme weather has passed.

- However, depending on weather conditions or if any repairs are needed, outages (weather event plus restoration time) could last longer than 48 hours.
- For planning purposes, we suggest customers prepare for multiple-day outages.
- Steps to restoration include:
 - Weather All Clear - After the extreme weather has passed and it's safe to do so, our crews can go into the field to begin patrols and inspections.
 - Patrol and Inspect
 - Our crews will work to visually inspect our power lines to look for potential weather-related damage to the lines, poles and towers. This is done by vehicle, foot and air.
 - Visual inspections are necessary since circuit breakers, reclosing devices and fuses that are typically used to help detect any potential damage from a weather event like a winter storm are also de-energized during a Public Safety Power Shutoff for safety reasons.
 - There are many challenges we face during inspections:
 - Some locations require workers to travel on narrow access roads. In locations with no vehicle access, crews might need to hike in remote and mountainous areas to inspect equipment.
 - At night, we can't fly helicopters for visual inspections.
 - Isolate and Repair Damaged Equipment
 - Where equipment damage is found, crews will work to isolate the damaged area from the rest of the system so other parts of the system can be restored.
 - Where equipment damage is found, crews work safely and as quickly as possible to make repairs.
 - Restoration
 - Once the poles, towers and lines are deemed safe to energize, a call is made to the PG&E Control Center to complete the energization process.
 - Power is then restored to customers.
 - Customer Notification
 - Customers are notified that power has been restored

For more information, please contact the Executive Office at 707-463-4441. The County of Mendocino anticipates being open to serve our constituents for the duration of this event. Please keep in mind that some County facilities may be without power, which may re-direct services to other locations. The County will notify or communicate any potential service changes, should they occur.

Released by: 
 Carmel J. Angelo
 Chief Executive Officer