

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGEND ITEM

Meeting Date: May 18, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: City Administration
Fire Chief Bill Braga, Director of Emergency Services
Subject: Informational Presentation - PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program
Recommendation : That the Council receive the informational presentation.
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost: N/A
Amount: \$0

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:

The item before the City Council tonight is an informational item from PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program.

BACKGROUND:

High temperatures, extreme dryness and record-high winds have created conditions in California where any spark at the wrong time and place can lead to a major wildfire. Nearly one-third of the electric lines that provide PGE customers with power are now in High Fire-Threat District areas, as designated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities, PG&E has identified the essential work needed to serve PGE customers and communities. This essential work includes emergency response, critical maintenance and work to further prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). This has been done in consultation with and consistent with direction from the California Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE and CPUC.

DISCUSSION:

It is recommended that the City Council receive a presentation from PG&E on PG&E's 2021 outlook for Public Safety Power Shutoffs and overall Wildfire Safety Efforts. No action will be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive the informational item from PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program.

Attachments:

2021 PG&E Slides

Community Wildfire Safety Program

SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

May 18, 2021



Safety

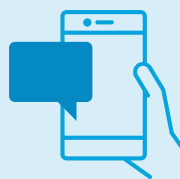
General Safety Tips



Identify two exit routes from your current work area in the event of a fire or other emergency.



“Drop, cover and hold” in the event of an earthquake.



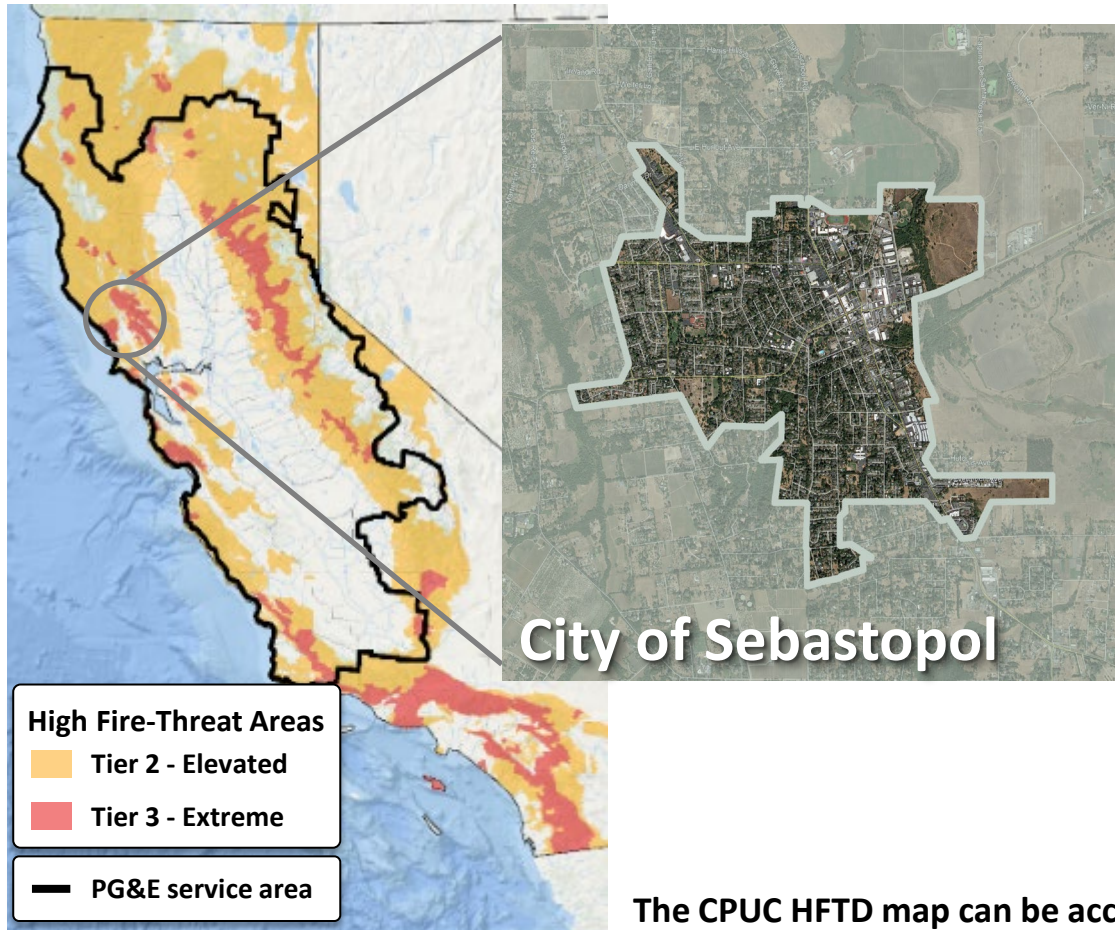
Notify emergency services if you are in danger. You can also ask for help by putting a message in the chat function of this meeting.



Follow COVID-19 safety precautions including wearing a mask in public, practicing social distancing and washing your hands to prevent the spread.

Wildfire Risks Across PG&E's Service Area

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has a map that designates areas that are most at risk for wildfire. This map helps us plan and prioritize wildfire prevention efforts.



SONOMA COUNTY		
	Total Customers Served	223,118
	Customers in HFTD	28,849
	Total Distribution Line Miles	3,201
	Distribution Line Miles in HFTD	1,503
	Total Transmission Line Miles	611
	Transmission Line Miles in HFTD	349

The CPUC HFTD map can be accessed at:

cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps



Source: California Public Utilities Commission

Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.

Community Wildfire Safety Program



REDUCE WILDFIRE POTENTIAL

- Asset inspection and repair
- Enhanced vegetation management (EVM)
- System hardening
- Targeted device replacement
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

IMPROVE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Wildfire Safety Operations Center
- Weather stations
- High-definition cameras
- Meteorology
- Satellite detection
- Bolster field-based wildfire expertise for program validation

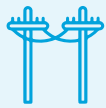
REDUCE IMPACTS OF PSPS EVENTS

- Focus on areas of highest risk
- Continuously improve based on feedback and past experience
- Further expand our ongoing coordination with and support for customers and communities
- Enhanced microgrid capability

What's New in 2021

We are continuing to harden our electric grid to reduce wildfire risks, working nonstop to lessen the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and providing more resources to customers and communities before, during and after PSPS events.

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



System hardening on:

180
CIRCUIT
MILES



Tracking
conditions with:

300
NEW WEATHER
STATIONS



Enhanced vegetation
management on:

1,800
HIGH-RISK
CIRCUIT MILES



Monitoring
for wildfires with:

135
NEW HIGH-DEF
CAMERAS

REDUCING PSPS IMPACTS



Limiting the number of customers impacted by installing **275+** additional distribution sectionalizing devices and transmission switches



Weather modeling improvements and **5 days** of forecast data



Helping to keep the power on with **10** substations prepared for temporary generation and **5** additional microgrids constructed to power key community resources

SUPPORTING CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES



Customer notifications in **16 languages** and new **Address Alerts** to keep informed about any address



~**5,000 batteries** available, covering all interested low-income Medical Baseline customers in high fire-threat areas



Targeting **370 total ADA-accessible Community Resource Center sites**



Meal replacement options for customers in **46 counties**



Targeting **additional partnerships** with Community-Based Organizations to support customers with Access and Functional Needs



Sonoma County Overview

Quarterly progress updates are available at:

pge.com/wildfiresafety

WILDFIRE SAFETY AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT PROGRAM EFFORTS

	COMPLETE THROUGH 2020*		2021 PROGRESS		2021 PLAN
System Hardening Stronger poles, covered power lines and/or targeted undergrounding	63 LINE MILES		4 LINE MILES		14 LINE MILES
Sectionalizing Devices Separating the grid into small sections for operational flexibility	89 DEVICES		1 DEVICE		29 DEVICES
Enhanced Vegetation Management Address vegetation that poses a higher potential for wildfire risk	309 LINE MILES		0 LINE MILES		48 LINE MILES
Community Resource Centers (CRC) Provide basic power needs and up-to-date information	3 INDOOR	10 OUTDOOR	4 INDOOR	9 OUTDOOR	ONGOING†
Weather Stations Enhancing weather forecasting and modeling	59 STATIONS		3 STATIONS		ONGOING‡
High-Definition Cameras Improving real-time monitoring of high-risk areas and conditions	11 CAMERAS		0 CAMERAS		ONGOING‡

*Cumulative progress from 2018 through 2020.

†CRC planning for 2021 is conducted in coordination with local agencies/tribes and is ongoing.

‡Identified on a monthly basis.

What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

Safety is our most important responsibility. That is why we may need to turn off power as a last resort to prevent wildfires during severe weather conditions.

High winds and dangerous conditions can cause branches and debris to contact energized power lines.

This could damage our equipment and cause a wildfire.



To prevent such fires, we may need to turn off power.

This is called a **Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).**



Once severe weather has passed, we will inspect the system and repair any damage.



Once inspections and any repairs are complete, power is restored.



What Conditions Could Lead to a PSPS Event?

We carefully review a combination of factors when deciding if power must be turned off for safety. These factors include:



Low humidity levels generally 30% and below



Forecasted high winds above 20 mph and gusts above 30-40 mph



A Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service



Condition of dry material on the ground and vegetation near lines



On-the-ground, real-time observations



This year, our decision-making process is evolving to also account for the presence of trees tall enough to strike power lines when determining if a PSPS event is necessary.

How Will Customers be Notified?

When severe weather is forecast, we provide advance notice prior to turning off power and updates until power is restored.

Timing of Notifications (when possible)



Notifications sent via automated calls, texts and emails.

We will also use pge.com, social media and will inform local news and radio.

@pacificgasandelectric

@PGE4Me

@pacificgasandelectric

NEW FOR 2021 | ADDRESS ALERTS

can notify you and your family members about a PSPS for any location.

Sign up for addresses you care about, such as:

- ✓ Your work or business
- ✓ Your child's school or daycare
- ✓ The home of a friend or loved one

Visit pge.com/addressalerts



We are increasing resources to help customers and communities before, during and after PSPS events:

	Partnerships with 250+ Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide emergency preparedness information and PSPS event assistance
	Sponsored food replacement through partner food banks and Meals on Wheels organizations
	California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) providing emergency planning, portable backup power, accessible transportation, hotel stays and food stipends
	Providing portable backup batteries for low-income Medical Baseline customers in high fire-threat areas
	Generator rebate programs offered to customers who depend on well water pumps and live in high-fire threat areas
	Providing better information about when power will be turned off and back on in 16 languages

Sonoma County Community-Based Organizations	
<p>CFILC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Services & Legal Center 	<p>In-Language Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABS-CNB Alianza News KBBF Radio (Non-profit) KBTV- Crossings TV KDTV Univision KIQI Radio KRON 4.2- Skylink TV KSFN- News for Chinese Radio KSJZ- Korean American Radio KTVO- Sing Tao Radio La Voz Movimiento Cultural de a Union Indigena PAMA One Radio Radio Lazer Sacramento Radio Lazer SJ (KSFN) Russian American Media Sound of Hope Radio Network Wine Country Radio
<p>Meals on Wheels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Seniors Petaluma People Services 	
<p>Food Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redwood Empire Food Bank 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Council of the Blind Food For Thought 	

Thank You

For more information, please:

- Call us at **1-866-743-6589**
- Email us at **wildfiresafety@pge.com**
- Visit **pge.com/wildfiresafety**

