



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



Benita McLarin, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH  
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
[marinhhs.org/public-health](http://marinhhs.org/public-health)

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Prepare for Power Outage**

October 23, 2020

#### **Background**

National Weather Service (NWS) is forecasting a potentially dangerous weather event with strong offshore winds expected from Sunday through Tuesday. [Much of PG&E's 43 county service territory, including Marin County, is now in "elevated" status](#) for a potential Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). NWS has also issued another Fire Weather Watch, which will likely become a Red Flag Warning.

Preliminary information suggests a Marin PSPS will begin b/w 4pm-8pm Sunday with restoration by midnight Tuesday. We do not yet have more specifics currently regarding impacted locations in Marin but anticipate more messaging from PG&E this afternoon.

#### **Recommendations**

Marin County healthcare and residential care facilities should take [immediate action](#) to assess and improve the resilience of its standby power operations and prepare for power outages.

Marin County healthcare providers should contact medically vulnerable patients (especially those dependent on electric-powered durable medical equipment). Providers should review patients' power outage plans for medical devices powered by electricity, including back up batteries, and refrigerated medicines.

1. Provide patients with the following information and guidance:
  - a. Questions regarding timing and location of power outages should be directed to PG&E via their website (<http://critweb-outage.pgealerts.com/>) or (866) 743-6589. Instruct patients to only call 9-1-1 if they are experiencing a medical or life-threatening emergency.
  - b. Older and vulnerable adults can visit Marin County Health & Human Services' online resource guide at <https://www.marinhhs.org/community-resource-guide> or call (415) 473-INFO (4636) between 8:30 am. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday.
  - c. Sign up to receive safety information:
    - i. Nixle by texting your ZIP code to 888-777.
    - ii. Sign up for [AlertMarin](#) notifications to receive information on immediate threats to personal safety or property.
    - iii. Watch for wireless emergency alerts if evacuations are ordered, intended to reach all cell phones in the area.

- iv. Sign-up for PG&E Power Shutoff Zip Code Alerts by texting ENROLL to 97633 or by calling 1-877-9000-PGE.
    - v. Update contact information with PG&E at <http://www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts%20>.
  2. Instruct medically vulnerable patients to consider relocating for a few days with a friend or family member in an area with power when an extended power outage is announced.
    - a. Identify several evacuation routes for your location and tell someone out of the area which route you plan to use.
    - b. Keep vehicles fueled and ready in case of an evacuation.
    - c. Make a list of what you'll want to take with you if you leave your home quickly. Consider the Five P's of Evacuation: People/Pets; Prescriptions; Papers; Personal Needs; Priceless Items.
    - d. Have some cash available in case retailers are unable to accept credit cards during an outage.
    - e. Check thermometers in refrigerators and freezers during an outage. Dispose of perishable food if the temperature reaches 40 degrees or higher for an extended period.
    - f. Keep mobile phones charged.
    - g. Know how to manually open electric garage doors and gates.
    - h. For more information, including what to do during a power outage, visit [www.readymarin.org](http://www.readymarin.org) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), <https://www.marinhhs.org/preparing-extended-power-outages>

Resource:

Preparing for Extended Power Outages. <https://www.marinhhs.org/preparing-extended-power-outages>