PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019
JESSIE TURNER CENTER

Public Safety Power Shutoff Community Meeting Questions and Answers

Below are questions asked during the PSPS Community Meeting and the answers provided by Southern California Edison.

General Power Outage

1. I have no power, but across the street does. How am I a fire risk, but they aren't? How do they have power, but I don't?

   SCE delivers power through electricity lines or "circuits." In certain areas, there may be different circuits providing electricity to different parts of a neighborhood. Often, it is the origination point of that circuit – most likely an SCE substation – and the points in-between the substation and the neighborhood subject to conditions that would warrant a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). We do not always have sectionalizing devices that can isolate only certain portions of the circuit; in those cases, it is necessary to shut off the entire circuit. We are working on adding additional sectionalizing devices to our circuits in High Fire Risk Areas.

2. Please explain the grid system. Is Coyote Canyon on a different grid than Hunters Ridge? What areas in Fontana are specifically deemed by SCE to be a high fire risk?

   Coyote Canyon/Hunters Ridge Area is fed by two circuits named the Acosta and the Silva. A long portion of the Acosta circuit runs north overhead through High Fire Risk area into Lytle Creek. The Silva circuit does not pass through an overhead High Fire Risk Area. The state's High Fire Risk Area is determined by the CPUC and Cal Fire. To view a map of High Fire Risk Areas, please visit https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/

3. Why does our electricity still get turned off when our lines are underground?

   Some circuits may be out of the High Fire Risk Area (HFRA) but downstream from a "feeder" circuit that is in the HFRA. If we shut off the primary circuit, the downstream circuit will also be turned off even if it is underground.

4. Are "rolling blackouts" being considered as an alternative to full outages?

   There is no correlation between PSPS and rolling blackouts. Rolling blackouts are typically used when there is not enough electricity on the system to satisfy the demand, and usually during extreme heat events, and is coordinated by the California Independent System Operator.

5. What does SCE offer as an alternative service and/or power during PSPS events?

   SCE does not provide backup generation to customers, except in limited cases where the need is coordinated in advance between SCE and local agencies for critical life and safety reasons or for first responders. For customers with personal medical equipment and other critical personal devices, SCE urges customers to explore safe, alternative power sources, such as Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS), that can be used safely indoors to power medical equipment during a potential extended power shutoff. You can learn more about UPS systems on EnergyStar's UPS webpage.

   For each PSPS event, SCE works with the County Office of Emergency Services to determine if there is a desire to deploy a Community Crew vehicle or Community Resource Center. Community Crew vehicles and Community Resource Centers would both provide customers with charging amenities to charge their personal mobile devices and an opportunity to speak with SCE staff about the current PSPS event.

Preventative

1. Fontana has always been, and will always be, a windy city. What steps are being taken to prevent shutting off the power in the wind? Will the current equipment be retrofitted?

   SCE has developed a Wildfire Mitigation Plan and submitted it to the California Public Utilities Commission. A key component of that plan includes grid hardening, which includes installing equipment that provides additional stability to our system. We expect that PSPS will be less frequent as we implement this plan.

2. Are there government restrictions directly affecting SCE's ability to keep the lines clear of brush/debris within a certain radius?

   SCE has adopted the California Public Utilities Commission's 2017 guidelines for tree trimming. In high fire risk areas, SCE is trimming 12 feet of clearance (at the time of trim) from a power line to ensure the minimum required clearance is never threatened.

   More information on SCE's vegetation management program may be found here (link).

3. Is it possible to improve the accuracy of the outage maps? How often are the maps updated?

   SCE has enhanced its PSPS maps on sce.com/psps. It has launched an interactive map on which has an overlay showing high fire risk areas that are being monitored for a potential PSPS or are currently experiencing a PSPS.

Reimbursement/Claims

1. What are the reimbursement plans for expenditures accrued due to the PSPS events? I had to purchase a generator and gas, along with groceries after my food had spoiled.
2. Can I file a claim for spoiled food and electronics blown after a power surge?
3. Will there be any credit given to customers on their bill for time without electricity?

   SCE understands that Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) can be a hardship for our customers, and we continue to work to minimize the impacts of those shutoffs. While we try to provide advance notice so our customers can prepare for extended outages, sometimes fast-changing weather conditions mean advance notice may not be possible. We know these outages can be difficult and these PSPS events are new to many of our customers, so SCE will pay qualified spoilage claims (food/medication) to eligible residential and business customers who did not receive at least 12 hours' notification of a PSPS. To be eligible for this reimbursement, customers must have opted into notifications and experienced an interruption of service for greater than 8 hours.

Other Questions for SCE

1. How did SCE handle power shutoffs before the updated Public Utilities Code and the adoption of ESRB-8?

   Public Safety Power Shutoffs have always been a tool that SCE has utilized to mitigate wildfires. This practice has become more prevalent in recent years because California's wildfire risk has increased in recent due to climate change factors and a significant build-up of vegetation.

2. Are you aware of the special problems of Lytle Creek Canyon? Many wells have electric pumps and county fire is too far away.

   Yes, we are aware of water pumps in Lytle Creek Canyon. We understand there are impacts to local communities but not every well is considered a firefighting resource. If local emergency management or fire officials identify a specific well as critical to firefighting, we will work with those officials to leave the power on as long as there are no safety risks; or find other alternatives for firefighters.

Below are questions asked during the PSPS Community Meeting and the answers provided by the City of Fontana.

Public Safety

1. Are there any public safety measures being taken during blackouts? Pitch-black neighborhoods are vulnerable without lights, alarms, and cameras. Are there more police patrolling the affected areas?

   Police will patrol the affected areas on a case by case basis.

2. Will our fire sprinklers work in the event of a fire when the power is out?

   Yes, fire sprinklers should work in the event of a fire when the power is out.

3. How does the City of Fontana ensure signals do not go dark when electricity is turned off?

   The City can ensure traffic signal operations during an SCE power outage until the battery back-up resources are depleted. Once this occurs, the dark signalized intersection shall be treated as an all-way stop condition.

   Each signalized intersection is equipped with a battery back-up system that keeps the traffic signal operational until the lives of the batteries are depleted. In normal red, yellow, and green signal operations, the intersection will function for approximately 6-8 hours depending on the charged state of the batteries.

   For an extended SCE outage, the intersection is typically placed in all way red flash which will extend the life of the batteries to approximately 12-14 hours due to less battery power consumption. Once the batteries are depleted, the intersection will then go dark until SCE power is restored.

   The City does not install stop signs at a dark intersection unless someone can be onsite to monitor the condition and placement of the signs. With the heavy winds the City sustains during these outages, the stop signs will not stay in place and can, therefore, cause a more hazardous condition. Also, resources are limited which prevents the City from providing stop signs at multiple locations at one time. As Chief Green mentioned during the meeting, a non-operational/dark signalized intersection is to be treated as a 4- way stop sign and motorists should proceed with caution.

   The City keeps the signalized intersections operational without SCE power present as long as resources will last, but eventually those resources become exhausted.