



Public Safety Power Shutoff (De-energization)

December 14, 2018

Lee Palmer
Deputy Director
Safety and Enforcement Division
leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov





Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

- The State's investor-owned utilities have general authority to shut off electric power to protect public safety under California law.
- Utilities have recently developed programs to exercise this authority during severe wildfire threat conditions as a preventative measure of last resort.
- <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/deenergization/>



CPUC DE-ENERGIZING WORKSHOPS

Join us for workshops on utility de-energization:



Dec. 14, 2018 in Santa Rosa focusing on potential impacts on vulnerable populations

Jan. 9, 2019 in Calabasas focusing on potential impacts on first responders and local government





De-energization Resolution (ESRB-8)

- CPUC adopted rules that utilities must follow in the event of a de-energization event during periods of extreme fire hazard to prevent fires caused by strong winds.
- Utilities must:
 - Hold informational workshops
 - Notify customers before shutting off power if feasible
 - Notify first responders, critical facilities, CPUC, and other entities ahead of time as feasible.
 - Submit de-energization outreach plans to CPUC.
 - Submit a report to the CPUC within 10 business days after each de-energization.





De-Energization Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR)

- Rulemaking to examine the practice of proactively de-energizing power lines during high-risk conditions.
- Will address the following areas:
 - Examining conditions in which proactive and planned de-energization is practiced;
 - Developing best practices and ensuring an orderly and effective set of criteria for evaluating de-energization programs;
 - Ensuring electric utilities coordinate with state and local level first responders, and align their systems with the Standardized Emergency Management System framework (SEMS) used by them;
 - Mitigating the impact of de-energization on vulnerable populations;
 - Examining whether there are ways to reduce the need for de-energization;
 - Ensuring effective notice to affected stakeholders of possible de-energization and follow-up notice of actual de-energization;
 - Ensuring consistency in notice and reporting of de-energization events.





More Information on PSPS

- <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/deenergization/>

The screenshot shows the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) website. The header includes the CA.GOV logo, the CPUC logo, a search bar, and a language selection dropdown. The navigation menu contains: Home, About Us, Safety, Transparency, Utilities & Industries, Licensing, Proceedings, Complaints, and Public Advocates Office. The breadcrumb trail is: Home | About Us | Divisions | News & Outreach | News Room | De-Energization. The main heading is "De-Energization". The text below reads: "The CPUC is monitoring the tragic fire conditions throughout the state that began in November 2018, in coordination with our partners from CAL FIRE and Cal OES. The State's Investor Owned Utilities, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), have general authority to shut off electric power to protect public safety under California law, specifically California Public Utilities Code (PU Code) Sections 451 and 399.2(a). This process is called de-energization. This authority includes shutting off power to prevent fires caused by strong winds. The State's utilities have recently developed programs to exercise this authority during severe wildfire threat conditions as a preventative measure of last resort. On July 12, 2018, the CPUC adopted rules to strengthen customer notification requirements before de-energization events and ordered utilities to engage local communities in developing de-energization programs. The CPUC is working with the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), CAL FIRE, and first-responders to address potential impacts of utility de-energization practices on emergency response activities, including evacuations. The CPUC is also monitoring the development and will continuously assess implementation of de-energization programs by utilities, including performing a thorough review of de-energization events as they occur."





Thank You!

For further information related to CPUC wildfire risk mitigation policies please contact :

**Lee Palmer, Deputy Director
Safety & Enforcement Division
415-703-2369**

Leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov

