
Aspiranet

~ June 2021 ~

Monthly Regulation Topic

Preparing for Power Shut Offs and Wildfire Emergencies

California fire authorities anticipate a large fire potential in areas that may experience critical weather, such as high winds and dry conditions. As in previous years, California energy companies may initiate Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) as a preemptive firefighting strategy, in locations experiencing critical weather. However, because energy systems rely on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties, and regions, the power may be shut off in areas not experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions. If a public safety power shutoff is needed, expect the following:

Early Warning Notification: The energy company will aim to send customer alerts before shutting off power.

Ongoing Updates: The energy company will provide ongoing updates through social media, local news outlets, and their website.

Safety Inspections: After extreme weather has passed, the energy company will inspect the lines in affected areas before power is safely restored.

Reminder: Downed power lines may be energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move power lines, keep children and animals away, leave the area immediately, and call 911.

Power Restoration: Power outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. Power will remain out for as long as extreme and dangerous weather conditions pose a potential fire risk. Depending on the severity of the weather and other factors, power outages could last several hours or multiple days.

Important Note: In anticipation of PSPS, as needed please update your energy company with your contact information and sign up for alerts to ensure prompt notice when electricity must be turned off for public safety. Please visit <https://prepareforpowerdown.com/> to learn more about PSPS, how to sign up for alerts from utility companies, and preparation for PSPS.

In the event of an extended public safety power shutoff (or other disaster), be prepared with the following

- Have a personal safety plan in place for every member of your household (including pets).
- Plan for any medical needs like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power.
- Build or restock your emergency supply kit, including food, water, flashlights, a radio, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.
- Identify backup charging methods for phones.
- Learn how to manually open your garage door.
- In the event of extreme heat, identify a relocation site with air conditioning to prevent heat related illness.
- If you own a backup generator, ensure it is ready to safely operate.

Wildfire Emergencies

Wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape. The fire season is starting earlier and ending later each year. Because of this, the state may no longer have a wildfire "season", but rather, a year-round risk of wildfires. Being prepared has never been more important.

The following are important steps to prepare for wildfire emergencies:

- Create a Wildfire Action Plan including identifying several alternative escape routes from your home, neighborhood, and community. Identify a designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. Practice these often so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner (with working batteries) to stay updated on the fire.
- Have a Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.

NOTE: During wildfire emergencies cell phone service may not be available.

Prevention & Safety:

- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are always in place and working.
- Make sure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.
- Create a defensible space around the your home by trimming trees and other vegetation, clearing away dead branches, wood piles, and vegetation from the roof, patio furniture, and play equipment, and keep rain gutters free of debris.
- Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals/livestock, if needed.

Notifying Aspiranet

Remember to notify Aspiranet as soon as safely possible in the event of any emergency or event impacting your home, including an extended Public Safety Power Shutoff, wildfire emergency or any emergency rendering your home unsafe and/or requiring that you evacuate.

Everbridge Emergency Notification System

Community Care Licensing (CCL) has instituted the use the **Everbridge Emergency Notification System** to notify Foster Family Agencies, including Aspiranet, in advance of or during disaster events (including fires and PSPS). The Everbridge system is primarily intended to notify Agencies directly, but at times resource parents may also receive notifications by Everbridge. Contacts by Everbridge are made via text, email, and/or phone call. Notifications sent via Everbridge will attempt to provide information regarding the geographic area of an event or may request a response on evacuation status specifically to an event where evacuations are involved. It is important to notify Aspiranet in the event you receive an Everbridge communication requesting information on your family's status. Resource Parents should also respond directly to the Everbridge request for information. If a response is not received via Everbridge when requested, CCL will contact the family or Aspiranet daily in order to acquire that information.

Please sign and return this page to your Aspiranet Social Worker for training credit.
My signature below indicates that I have completed the June 2021 "Preparing for Power Shut
Offs & Wildfire Emergencies" training.

Signature Foster Parent #1

Date

Print Name Foster Parent #1

Signature Foster Parent #2

Date

Print Name Foster Parent #2

Aspiranet Authorized Signature

Date

Training credit: _____ minutes