



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

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AL TSA: ALF #2024-019
AL TSA: CCRSS #2024-020
AL TSA: ESF #2024-020
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2024-014
AL TSA: NH #2024-029

NOTICE OF PUBLIC POWER SAFETY SHUTOFFS

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

This letter is to inform you that several utility companies within Washington State plan to launch strategic power outages as part of a greater wildfire mitigation. This strategy is being referred to as “Public Safety Power Shutoff.”

What is Public Safety Power Shutoff?

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a last resort mitigation tool initiated by utilities to de-energize specific powerlines in high-risk areas during fire weather to reduce the risk of electrical system ignition of wildfires. PSPS will be utilized strategically and only as a last resort measure.

PSPS differ from other de-energizations which occur as a result of damage or as requested for responder safety. PSPS may include 24-48 hour notice to emergency management personnel and customers. PSPS should not be confused with “rolling blackouts” or outages associated with utility failure.

While power is the primary utility impacted by these strategies, natural gas and water may also be impacted.

What Service Areas are Impacted?

The following utility companies have announced plans to utilize PSPS strategies:

- Puget Sound Energy
- Pacific Power
- Chelan PUD
- Avista

This has the impact to affect the following jurisdictions:

Adams County
Coville Tribe
Island County
Lincoln County
Pierce County
Samish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Yakima Tribe

Chelan County
Ferry County
Jefferson County
Lummi Tribe
Port Gamble S’Kallam Tribe
Skagit Tribe
Swimonish Tribe
Walla Walla County
Yakima County

Columbia County
Garfield County
Kitsap County
Muckleshoot Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Skagit County
Thurston County
Whitman County

Staying Informed

Advance notice may be provided by your utility provider in 24-48 hours prior to a shutdown. In order to stay informed, the following actions are recommended.

- Make sure all your information is up to date with your utility provider.
- Be familiar with outage maps and 24/7 numbers for your provider.
- If you have life sustaining equipment in use, notify your local provider.
 - Dialysis equipment, ventilators, feeding or infusion pumps, suction machines, oxygen concentrators, and ventricular assisting devices are examples of life sustaining equipment.
 - Additional resources may be available from your utility provider. This may include priority status and early notification.
- Opt-in to emergency alerts with your local emergency management agency.
- RCS **will not** require notification for outages that are short in duration and have minimal impact to continuity of care.
- Outage alerts will be generated locally. Currently, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) does not have capabilities for mass notifications.

Preparedness Tips

Review your utility outage plans before summer season is here. Test and refine your plans before outages are expected.

If you have a generator, test your equipment per manufacturer recommendations. Be familiar with what equipment will retain functionality. Move essential equipment to back-up power outlets. Consider the procurement battery packs for life sustaining equipment.

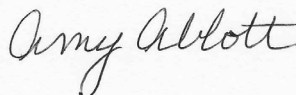
If an outage occurs during heat events, cooling centers can be located here:

https://search.wa211.org/search?location=&query=TH-2600.1900-180&query_type=taxonomy&query_label=Extreme+Heat+Cooling+Centers

Stay up to date with your local emergency management and utility company. There may be resource centers available during outages. These centers may offer the ability for cooling and charging of electronic devices. PSPS sites for each utility company are also listed at the end of this letter.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Freed, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at Richard.freed@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Transforming Lives”

References and Further Information:

Washington State Department of Commerce, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Office

- Public Safety Power Shutoff Fact Sheet.
<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/m1tm64d8to6b9vgd3ao0z6rlelvan6w6>
- Public Safety Power Shutoff Presentation
<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/52jghj31wvk7wqzhf09q7v70xiaztnp>

Chelan PUD

- Outage Map
<https://outages.chelanpud.org/>
- Wildfire Mitigation Settings
<https://www.chelanpud.org/learning-center/wildfire-mitigation-program/wildfire-mitigation-settings>

Avista

- Outage Map
<https://outagemap.myavista.com/external/default.html>
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs
<https://www.myavista.com/safety/were-doing-more-to-protect-against-wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff>

Pacific Power

- Public Safety Power Shutoffs
<https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety/wildfire-safety/public-safety-power-shutoff.html>
- Wildfire Safety
<https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety/wildfire-safety.html>

Puget Sound Energy

- Outage Map
<https://www.pse.com/en/outage/outage-map>
- Public Safety Power Shutoff
<https://www.pse.com/en/pages/Wildfire-preparedness/Public-Safety-Power-Shutoff>
- Life Support and Medical Emergencies
<https://www.pse.com/en/Customer-Service/life-support-and-medical-emergencies>