Options for Consideration in the Face of Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff 2020

Update and verify contact information for your partners and stakeholders. Contact your power utility and connect with your assigned account manager/customer service representative. Discuss their Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) processes and how/when you will be alerted before the PSPS is implemented. Register to be alerted. Refer to the prepare for powerdown webpage for more information on how to better prepare for PSPS - [https://prepareforpowerdown.com/](https://prepareforpowerdown.com/). Learn more from your energy company and the resources that they offer by following the links below:

**Southern California Edison (SCE) information**

**San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) information**

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) information**

Establish or join mutual assistance/aid networks. Join the California Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) at its webpage – [www.CalWARN.org](http://www.CalWARN.org). There is strength and expertise in a network. Resources can be sought among fellow water sector members and be brought to bear to address the needs.

Review and update the Emergency Response Plan. Consider including a section or annex on managing a long-term power outage; consider critical customers. Review and verify emergency communications plan – contact information for critical partners, such as Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC), Fire, Law, Public Health, SWRCB DDW District Engineer, Local Primacy Agency contact, many others. Review the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) processes internal and external. Consider staff accountability. Understand how to identify needs and request resources.
Review and prepare notifications and messages to customers, partners, and stakeholders for situations such as precautionary boil water notices due to loss of pressure and compromised system. The SWRCB DDW has templates for unsafe water alerts posted on its webpage - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Notices.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Notices.html). Prepare the customer service personnel to receive incoming calls from customers during a PSPS and have ready helpful guidance.

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<tr>
<th>Review the drinking water distribution system. Consider how or where to move water with no power. Prioritize facilities. Locate and exercise valves so that they may be used when called upon. Locate single points of failure and determine how to mitigate such vulnerabilities.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prioritize sources, treatment, facilities, resources, and essential functions under the conditions of extended power outage and wildfires. Establish critical personnel shift schedules so can implement when needed.</td>
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<td>Secure or acquire necessary emergency generators for the critical functions. Consider mobile equipment for increased flexibility. Plan for fueling and operation for an extended time in case of long power outage. Consider fuel for both emergency generators and emergency vehicles. Contact your electric utility if they have resources to assist.</td>
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<td>Establish and maintain the 100 feet (or more) defensible space around critical facilities. Learn more about wildfires and defensible space at the following CalFire webpage - <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/</a> and review/verify multiple ingress and ingress pathways.</td>
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<td>Stay tuned to the local news for updates. Keep an eye on the climate. National Weather Service webpage - <a href="https://www.weather.gov/">https://www.weather.gov/</a>. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration webpage - <a href="https://www.noaa.gov/">https://www.noaa.gov/</a>. Consider signing-up for the CA Resiliency notices at their webpage - <a href="http://www.CAresiliency.org">www.CAresiliency.org</a> – they have been collecting and compiling good information from multiple sources.</td>
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<td>Have an awareness of the High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD)and how wildfires in such areas may affect you and your public water system from the CPUC webpage - <a href="https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/">https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/</a></td>
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Report status to the SWRCB DDW District Engineer and the Local Primacy Agency. You can see the District Office contact and location at the SWRCB webpage - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/)

Consider registering for Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards. Get more information from their webpage - [https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets](https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets). GETS provides national security and emergency preparedness personnel priority access and prioritized processing in the local and long-distance segments of the landline networks, greatly increasing the probability of call completion.

Consider using the USEPA guidance - Incident Action Checklist – Wildfire – at their webpage - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/wildfire.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/wildfire.pdf). The actions in this checklist are divided up into three “rip & run” sections and are examples of activities that water and wastewater utilities can take to: prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfires. For on-the-go convenience, you can also populate the “My Contacts” section with critical information that your utility may need during an incident. There are also incident action checklist for other concerns such as power outage and pandemic here - [https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/incident-action-checklists-water-utilities](https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/incident-action-checklists-water-utilities).


Register with the US Army Corp of Engineers - Emergency Power Facility Assessment Tool (EPFAT). The EPFAT is a secure web-based tool that can be used by critical public facility owners/operators, or emergency response agencies, to input, store, update and/or view temporary emergency power assessment data. Having pre-installation assessment data in advance will expedite USACE’s abilities to provide temporary power. The [EPFAT Factsheet](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/wildfire.pdf) is found at the USACE webpage.
Conduct tabletop exercises (TTX) with partners and stakeholders to verify actions to be implemented and determine if there any gaps that need to be filled. USEPA has TTX tools to assist public water systems be better prepared at this webpage - https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/develop-and-conduct-water-resilience-tabletop-exercise-water-utilities.