



**Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
Public Health Department**

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Office of the Director

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Re: PG&E Power Shutoffs and Air Quality

October 28, 2019

Dear Providers,

Thousands of Alameda County residents lost power over the weekend due to the PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) that began on October 26th. While PG&E works to restore power, they have alerted us to the possibility of another PSPS event planned for October 29th-30th. Alameda County is continuing its emergency response, and we are also monitoring the potential for poor air quality resulting from the Bay Area fires.

Prolonged periods without power, combined with the potential for drastic swings in temperature or poor air quality, pose serious risks for vulnerable individuals. **To support our outreach and resiliency efforts, we are encouraging our provider community to please check on your medically fragile clients, including the elderly and those who may use electricity-dependent medical equipment, take medication that needs to be refrigerated, have limited mobility, or are dependent on dialysis and in-home care.**

The following resources may be helpful for you and your clients:

Public Safety Power Shutoff:

- **Sign up for a local emergency alert via text, phone, and email: [AC Alert](#)**
- The California Health and Human Services Agency has launched three new resources to assist in PSPS events:
 - [consumer resources page](#) for vulnerable individuals;
 - **non-emergency hotline (833) 284-3473** for connection to help identify local resources; available 9:00am – 9:00pm in multiple languages, during planned or potential shutoffs;
 - [Personal Emergency Plan](#) toolkit to help people prepare.
- **To see if you are affected by the power safety shutoff, visit [PG&E](#).**

Poor Air Quality from Wildfire Smoke:

- Visit www.airnow.gov to monitor local air quality conditions and indicators to stay indoors.

- This [flyer](#) offers information on wildfire smoke and is available in multiple languages; please visit the Public Health Department's [Wildfire Smoke Resources](#) for additional resources
- **The best option for responding to poor air quality conditions is to avoid exposure to outdoor air and stay indoors with the windows and doors closed.**
- Set indoor car ventilation and indoor air systems to recirculate, use HEPA filters, and keep windows and doors closed.
- **Unsheltered individuals, those with heart and lung conditions, and others who do not have access to indoor facilities with good air quality should seek clean air sites.** This [list](#) provides options for publicly available heating/cooling centers/clean air sites.
- **There is no clear evidence that N95 respirator use by members of the general public is beneficial to an individual's health during a wildfire smoke air quality event, and they can actually make it harder to breathe.**

Thank you for the work you do to help us protect and promote the wellbeing of our communities, and please be in touch with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kimi Watkins-Tartt
Director, Alameda County Public Health Department