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REOPENING CALIFORNIA AFTER COVID

California officials on Friday announced the state is on track for a wide reopening on June 15, and laid out what changes residents can expect when the date comes, including new requirements for large indoor events.

"We're at a point where we can actually move beyond saying we expect to open on June 15, to confirming that we're opening up June 15," Dee Dee Myers, a senior adviser to Gov. Gavin Newsom, said in a media briefing.

The statewide changes don't mean that local public health jurisdictions can't put in stricter guidance based on their conditions, said Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency.

The state has been using a four-tier, color-coded blueprint to guide reopenings for months. While no counties remain in the most-restrictive purple tier for widespread coronavirus transmission, 10 counties remain in the red tier for substantial virus spread.

Los Angeles County, which is in the least restrictive tier, will align with the state's reopening plans, officials announced later Friday.

As for the state-mandated restrictions, the limits on capacity, physical distancing and around eating and drinking will all "go away," Myers said.

Here's what will change after June 15, according to state officials:

- California will no longer have capacity limitations.
 - There will no longer be physical distancing restrictions for attendees, customers and guests.
- The state will implement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's masking plan, which lets fully vaccinated people ditch face coverings in most settings.
- The state will also align with the CDC's recommendations on travel, which include restrictions and prohibitions on travelers coming from countries that have severe outbreaks. But there will not be quarantine and isolation requirements for travel within the country.

REOPENING CALIFORNIA

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- At outdoor events with over 10,000 participants, like festivals, parades, sporting events and concerts, the state is recommending verification of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test. Or, if the person is neither vaccinated nor tested, venues can give them the option to attend but with a mask required.
- At indoor venues with more than 5,000 guests, the state is now requiring, not just recommending, verification of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test. That includes conventions, sporting events and concerts.

Ghaly stressed that the state won't require "vaccine passports."

To prove vaccination, people can bring either the white CDC card they got when they got the jab, a photocopy of the card or a photo of it on their phone, or documentation of vaccination from a health care provider.

Venue operators may also have people "self-attest" when they're buying their tickets or before entering the venue, state officials said.

The plan is to assess conditions by Sept. 1, when the state will determine whether coronavirus test and vaccine verification requirements will need to be updated, officials said.

Ghaly said that with the economy reopening widely there is some concern about increased transmission, but it's not expected to be significant.

"We'll see likely some increase in transmission, but because of the level of protection broadly across the state, we don't think that transmission will have significant impact on our hospital delivery," Ghaly said.

Conditions in California have improved in recent months. The state has seen COVID-19 hospitalizations decrease, with two-thirds of adult residents at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19.

Ghaly said the state will continue to track important metrics, even with the reopening blueprint shelved.

"I do think that if we see a small increase in cases, that it's going to cause people to decide to maybe not go out as frequently, maybe not go to the large random mixing places," Ghaly said.

Even with the continued progress statewide and a large reopening on the horizon, officials said there's still work to be done, especially with vaccinating younger Californians.

"We have a lot of work to make sure that we can deliver on a vision for our K-12 schools, that in the fall we set them up to meet 100% in-person" Ghaly said.

IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE: HOW TO STAY SAFE IN EXTREME HEAT

Written by Alicia de la Garza, Cal OES

Summer is right around the corner and with it comes the occasional extreme heat streak. While some of the warmer weather comes with the summer territory, high record temperatures can lead to emergency situations. By following a few [important steps](#), you can keep yourself, your loved ones, neighbors, and pets comfortable and safe during a heat wave.

DURING A HEATWAVE



Don't let a heatwave turn into an emergency.

Avoid strenuous activity and direct exposure to the sun during the hottest part of the day. If you can, stay cool at home indoors. If your home does not have air conditioning, find a public indoor location to keep cool. You can also contact your local county to find out if cooling shelters are available in your area. A few hours in air conditioning can help your body better react to the heat when you go outside.

If you must go outside, wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. A hat can help shade your face from the direct sunlight. Protect your skin by using sunscreen with SPF 30 or above.

It's important to stay hydrated when temperatures rise. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink water. Make sure your pets have plenty of fresh, cool water. Keep their water bowl out of direct sunlight.

Never leave children or pets in the car – no exceptions. Even when temperatures outside are mild, the temperature inside the car can reach 100 degrees in less than 10 minutes.

IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE: HOW TO STAY SAFE IN EXTREME HEAT

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ENERGY CONSERVATIONS TIPS & FLEX ALERTS

Flex Alerts ask consumers to voluntarily conserve electricity when there's an anticipated supply shortage. When you use less energy during a Flex Alert, you reduce the likelihood of rotating power outages.

Flex Alerts are issued a day before so consumers can prepare by shifting energy use from afternoon to morning.

BEFORE AN ALERT

- Pre-cool your home by lowering the thermostat to 72 degrees
- Close blinds and drapes to keep the heat out
- Turn off unnecessary lights
- Charge mobile devices, laptops, and medical equipment
- Use dishwashers, washing machines, and other major appliances before 3pm

DURING AN ALERT

- Avoid using major appliances
 - Set your thermostat to 78 degrees
 - Unplug or turn off electrical devices that are not in use
 - Use fans when possible
- Be prepared to reduce your energy use – sign up to receive Flex Alerts.

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for information about upcoming extreme heat conditions. Anyone is at risk for heat-related illness. Check in on neighbors who may have mobility issues or no air conditioning.

For more tips on conserving energy, visit: [https://
www.flexalert.org/save-energy](https://www.flexalert.org/save-energy)

GOVERNOR NEWSOM HIGHLIGHTS NEW FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT, \$2 BILLION IN WILDFIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INVESTMENTS

MCCLELLAN PARK – At McClellan Air Force Base today, Governor Gavin Newsom highlighted the recent addition of six CAL FIRE HAWK helicopters to CAL FIRE’s fleet and discussed his proposed \$2 billion investment in combating wildfires and emergency preparedness – the largest in California history.

“Climate change has created a new wildfire reality in California, and we are proposing the single largest investment in wildfire preparedness in our state’s history – \$2 billion for emergency preparedness,” said Governor Newsom. “With new investments in state-of-the-art firefighting technology and equipment and a focus on building resilience through fuel breaks, forest health projects and home hardening to protect our high-risk communities, the state is more prepared than ever to face wildfire season.”



Governor Newsom highlights new CAL FIRE HAWK helicopters and \$2 billion in wildfire and emergency preparedness investments

Earlier in the day, the Governor was joined by CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter and CAL OES Director Mark Ghilarducci on an aerial tour of key fuel breaks in the Sierra Foothills made possible by executive action in 2019 to accelerate fuels management in California’s most wildfire-vulnerable communities.

The Governor’s California Comeback Plan proposes \$2 billion for disaster preparedness, including urgent action to support wildfire suppression, improve forest health and build resilience in communities to help protect residents and property from catastrophic wildfires. Investments include \$48.4 million to phase in 12 new CAL FIRE HAWK helicopters and seven large air tankers; \$143.3 million to support 30 additional fire crews; and an additional \$708 million to restore landscape and forest health to be more resilient to wildfires.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM HIGHLIGHTS NEW FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT, \$2 BILLION IN WILDFIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INVESTMENTS

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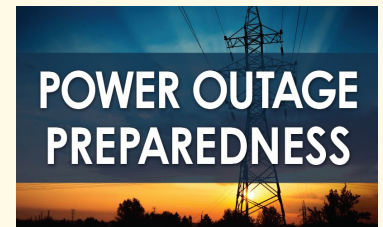
In partnership with the Legislature, the Governor signed a \$536 million early action wildfire package last month to give the state a head start on projects to restore the ecological health of forests and watersheds, fuel breaks and home hardening for at-risk communities, and improvements to defensible space to mitigate wildfire damage. The California Comeback Plan includes expanded investments for sustainable approaches to thinning California's vulnerable landscapes and funding to advance approximately 500 fuel break projects, building on the success of the expedited 35 emergency fuel reduction projects that played a critical role in containing wildfires last year.

Governor Newsom last month announced that he is expanding and refocusing the Forest Management Task Force to deliver on key commitments in the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan issued in January. The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force of federal, local and tribal leaders builds on the state's collaborative effort to improve the health of forests and reduce wildfire risk to communities.

POWER OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU READY

When the lights go out, are you ready?

As California continues to deal with longer, hotter summers as well as growing threat of wildfires as a result of climate change, everyone living in our state should take steps now to prepare themselves and their families for events like a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) or rolling blackouts.



Such events may leave many Californians without power for hours and in some cases days. Moreover, other natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, cyber attacks and wildfires also have the potential to disrupt power for long periods of time.

Power outages can impact the whole community and the economy by:

- Disrupting communications, water, gas, and transportation.
- Closing retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services.
- Causing food spoilage and water contamination.
- Preventing use of medical devices.

There are, however, many ways you can prepare for these events to protect yourself and your loved ones.

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POWER OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU READY

Preparing for a Power Outage

Take inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity. Plan for batteries and other alternative power sources to meet your needs when the power goes out, such as a portable charger or power bank. Have flashlights for every household member. Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage and how long battery backup will last. If possible, keep vehicles fully gassed and have cash on hand if ATM's are unavailable.

Conserve Energy When Called Upon

During extreme heat events, California's power grid operator may predict an increased demand for electricity that exceeds grid capacity. During these times, called Flex Alerts, consumers are urged to conserve electricity, especially during the late afternoon and early evening, when the grid is most stressed due to higher demand and solar energy production falling.

Know Your Medical Needs

Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Know how long your medications can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.

Food Storage

Have enough nonperishable food and water for every member of your household for three days. Open freezers and refrigerators only when necessary. Your refrigerator can keep food cold for four hours. A full freezer will maintain temperature for two days. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer. Throw out food if temperatures reach 40 degrees or higher.

Using Appliances During Power Outages

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home. Generators, camp stoves and grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home. Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

Returning After A Power Outage

Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately for a new supply.

WHAT IS PSPS? HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) / De-Energization

What is PSPS? History and Background

As California's population has continued to grow in suburban and exurban areas that were formerly wilderness, the risk and size of fires has escalated. More than a third of California's housing is now located in areas known as wildland-urban interface. When wildfires happen upon these communities, they become more dangerous and leap from structure to structure in what is called “fast-moving urban conflagrations” that firefighters find difficult to stop.

Over the last decade, California has experienced increased, intense, and record-breaking wildfires in Northern and Southern California. These fires have resulted in devastating loss of life and billions of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure. Electric utility infrastructure has historically been responsible for less than ten percent of reported wildfires; however, fires attributed to power lines comprise roughly half of the most destructive fires in California history. With the continuing threat of wildfire, utilities may proactively cut power to electrical lines that may fail in certain weather conditions to reduce the likelihood that their infrastructure could cause or contribute to a wildfire. This effort to reduce the risk of fires caused by electric infrastructure by temporarily turning off power to specific areas is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). However, a PSPS can leave communities and essential facilities without power, which brings its own risks and hardships, particularly for vulnerable communities and individuals. From 2013 to the end of 2019, California experienced over 57,000 wildfires (averaging 8,000 per year) and the three large energy companies conducted 33 PSPS de-energizations.

In 2012, the CPUC ruled that California Public Utilities Code Sections 451 and 399.2(a) give electric utilities authority to shut off electric power in order to protect public safety. This allows the energy companies (SDG&E, PG&E, SCE, Liberty, Bear Valley and PacifiCorp) to shut off power for the prevention of fires where strong winds, heat events, and related conditions are present.

In 2017, fires raged in Santa Rosa, Los Angeles, and Ventura making it one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in California's history. In response to the 2017 wildfires and Senate Bill (SB) 901, the Commission revised earlier guidelines on the de-energization of powerlines.

The CPUC adopted the most current set of PSPS guidelines on June 5, 2020.

MYLAR BALLOONS CAUSE THOUSANDS OF OUTAGES EVERY YEAR

During this time of year, flower leis, personalized cards and balloons are popular gifts for graduation ceremonies as well as Father's Day and the 4th of July. .

Mylar balloons are the metallic shiny, silver-like balloons which cause thousands of power outages each year when they float away and come into contact with power lines.

Although these balloons are fun and festive, especially for celebrations, it is extremely important to handle these balloons properly and ensure they do not get released into the air. If loose balloons come into contact with power lines, they can cause explosions, power outages, downed power lines, and much more that can result in extremely dangerous risks to public safety.



Keep Your Balloons Happy. Keep Them Away From Power Lines

Safety Tips:

- Keep balloons indoors
- Metallic balloons should always be secured with weights as required by California law
- Never attach metallic streamers to balloons
- Balloons should never be released outdoors
- When disposing of the balloons, puncture them to release the helium, which prevents them from flying away
- Do not try to retrieve balloons tangled in power lines or electrical equipment

CUEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, my original thought was that it would be over in time for our 2020 CUEA Annual Conference in June. Well that didn't happen, so my next thought was definitely 2021. And again, here we are in June of 2021 and still no Annual Conference. So, now with the number of vaccines given and the plan to reopen California, we are looking forward to planning an in-person CUEA 2022 Annual Conference.

Also, once the dust has settled and we are back to "somewhat normal", we will resume our quarterly committee meetings.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Committee members meet quarterly to assess current and potential issues, which could impact the dependability of energy supplies within the operational systems and vulnerabilities within the organizations continuity plans. As a result the committee has shared successes and experiences relating to emergency preparedness issues such as Employee Emergency Preparedness Programs, lessons learned and newly innovative programs such as Nationwide Security Identification for First Responders and Credentialing of First Responders. Through invaluable information sharing and implementation of updated notification protocols, the Energy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that California is able to meet energy demands and protect its most critical infrastructure. Rod Wheeler from CAISO is the Chair of the committee. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

This committee has been diligent in its efforts to strengthen the water/waste water emergency response community. The ongoing information sharing between member organizations has proved to be of great value. Exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and emergency related templates between organizations have led to improved processes within the water/waste water arena.

Steve Frew of East Bay Municipal Utility District has served as the Chair of this committee for more than 8 years. Steve will be retiring from EBMUD this October. Thank you Steve for your many years of commitment to the water/wastewater committee and your continued support of CUEA. Steve will be looking for someone to take his place as the Chair of this committee. The committee chair holds quarterly conference calls to focus on Water security, preparedness, and response. Committee members exchange information on how their companies are dealing with theft, protection of sensitive information, as well as upgrades to security policies and technology. If you are interested in replacing Steve as the Chair or would just like to be a part of this committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or at the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.



REPRESENTING:
POWER-GAS-PIPELINE - TELECOM-CABLE
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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR OUR NEXT
SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 12/15/21:
JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV

BOARD MEMBERS ONLY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
TENTATIVE DATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 - VIRTUAL (TEAMS) MEETING
PROPOSED DECEMBER MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2021 - IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING
LOCATION TBD

SAVE THE DATE
CUEA 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
LAKE TAHOE RESORT
JUNE 16, 2022
(DATE & LOCATION ARE TENTATIVE)