The State’s Response to PSPS

Eric Lamoureux
Acting Deputy Director, Response Operations
Public Safety Power Shutoffs – Why?

### TOP 20 MOST DEADLY FIRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>153,336</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tubbs</td>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>36,807</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Redwood Valley</td>
<td>Powerline</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>36,523</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>51,624</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Laguna</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>175,425</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOP 20 MOST DESTRUCTIVE FIRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>153,336</td>
<td>18,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tubbs</td>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>36,807</td>
<td>5,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Valley</td>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>76,067</td>
<td>1,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Witch</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>197,990</td>
<td>1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nuns</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>54,382</td>
<td>1,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>281,893</td>
<td>1,063</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>70,868</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>51,624</td>
<td>783</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>City of Berkeley</td>
<td>Powerlines</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>584</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Redwood Valley</td>
<td>Powerline</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>36,523</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25% of California’s most deadly and 50% of the most destructive fires caused by electrical equipment
October 2019 PSPS Impacts

- 940,000 customers (connections) across 31 counties impacted
  - Cal OES facilitated the delivery of 47 generators, including 17 generators provided by PG&E and 12 generators provided by FEMA
- Approx. 1,670 cell sites impacted
  - 700 sites operational due to backup power generation
  - 970 sites went down
- 564 schools closed due to PSPS outage
  - 171,955 students affected
In October 2019 PSPS events, the prolonged power outages caused cell towers to go down.

State operations were impacted.
- Challenges receiving information from the field and telecommunication service providers.
- Without access to a working cell phone, many Californians are limited in their ability to access life saving assistance and information.
Utilities make the PSPS notifications to the California State Warning Center (CSWC)

CSWC makes internal notifications as well as notifies key agency partners

Cal OES staff coordinates with utilities to prepare for de-energization and re-energization

- If the event is large in scope and impact, this may lead to a State Operations Center (SOC) activation
What Are Utilities Doing to Make PSPS Better?

- Community Resource Centers and Vehicles
- Exercises
- New grid technology
- Improved communication processes
- Hardening of the electric system
- Accelerated inspections of electric infrastructure
- Enhanced vegetation management around power lines
- Real-time monitoring and situational awareness tools

Cal OES participates in Utilities’ PSPS planning and response processes to ensure they work for California
Engaging with Utilities to address:
- Public education
- Their decision-making
- State and local government notification
- Execution of PSPS events

Creating new standards and policies for Utilities and telecommunication service providers

Working with CSAC and the League to ensure local elected officials are informed

Implementing new technologies (infrared)
2019 and 2020 Resiliency Grants

- **FY 2019-20 - $75 M**
  - Counties $26M (58 recipients) for EOC continuity of operations, mobile generators, subgrants to political jurisdictions, and more.
  - Cities $10M (39 recipients) for power back-up solutions—including solar-powered and energy-efficient mobile generators—for wastewater treatment plants, freshwater pumping stations, shelters, cooling centers, senior care facilities, Veteran’s halls, public transit facilities, etc.
  - Tribes $1.5M (18 recipients) for power back-up solutions for tribal community centers, freshwater and wastewater treatment plants, EOCs, emergency planning, etc.
  - State Agencies $37.5M (8 recipients) for portable solar/battery back-up power units, resources to support mass care and shelter, resiliency planning for schools, communications tower back-up power, etc.

- **FY 2020-21 - $50 M - TBD**
Questions?

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