



Office of the City Manager

October 15, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager 
Re: PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff

PG&E is planning a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) affecting 2,132 customers in the North Berkeley hills, including 87 Medical Baseline customers, beginning approximately 5:15 AM Thursday, October 15. PG&E estimates power restoration by 2:00 PM Saturday, October 17, although timing may change.

The City has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to this incident.

Anticipated Community Questions and Answers

Why is PG&E turning off power if there is no Red Flag Warning?

PG&E uses its own meteorology team and weather models to assess wildfire risk, separate from the National Weather Service (NWS), which issues Red Flag Warnings. For this weather event, PG&E's models indicate a higher level of risk than those used by NWS.

To better assess local conditions, NWS developed a specific forecast for Grizzly Peak in Berkeley on Thursday and Friday. The forecast predicts winds of 5 to 10 mph, gusts up to 15 mph, and afternoon humidity levels of 19% to 25%. While these conditions indicate elevated fire weather concerns, they do not meet the criteria for a Red Flag Warning or Extreme Fire Weather. Accordingly, the City is **not** recommending that residents leave the hills.

Temperatures are forecast to reach 84 degrees on Thursday, 87 degrees on Friday, and 81 degrees on Saturday, creating a moderate heat risk for residents in the Berkeley hills. The combination of elevated temperatures and potential power outages has prompted the City to expand public communications to identify air-conditioned facilities where residents can find relief from the heat as well as charge devices during the PSPS.

The City will continue to monitor weather forecasts and conditions closely and activate additional fire weather safety protocols if warranted. Residents should remain alert to new information from the City and be prepared to follow official emergency instructions.

Who will lose power, and when will it return?

Approximately 2,132 Berkeley customers are within the planned outage area, primarily in the North Berkeley hills. PG&E expects the PSPS to begin Thursday morning and estimates restoration by Saturday afternoon.

The exact time of restoration depends on weather conditions, inspection of power lines, and any necessary repairs.

Customers can obtain current PSPS information using the address lookup tool at the PG&E Outage Center.

Where can residents charge devices or escape the heat?

City of Berkeley libraries and senior centers will be open to provide a safe, cool place to escape the heat and charge devices. These sites have air conditioning:

1. Central Library, 2090 Kittredge (open Thurs-Sat, 10am-6pm)
2. Claremont Branch, 2940 Benvenue (open Thurs 12-8p, and Fri-Sat 10a-6p)
3. Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library (Community Meeting Room only), 1901 Russell (open Thurs 12-8p, and Fri-Sat 10a-6p)
4. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst (open Thurs-Fri, 9a-4p)
5. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis (open Thurs 9a-4p)

In addition, PG&E has established an outdoor Community Resource Center at the Clark Kerr Campus, 2601 Warring Street, with operating hours of 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM during the outage. Residents can charge devices and use WiFi at this location. For updated information on PG&E Community Resource Centers visit PG&E's Community Resource Center page.

What should residents who depend on electrically-powered medical equipment do?

Residents should prepare backup power arrangements, charge essential devices, and contact their medical providers if continued operation of equipment is uncertain. For additional assistance with outage preparation, such as non-emergency transportation, call 211.

If you need emergency transport to a hospital for medical care, call 911. Do not call 911 for medical device charging unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. Emergency responders are unable to charge/power your medical device. See the PG&E Community Resource Center and City locations above to charge your devices.

What is the City doing to help seniors and vulnerable residents?

The City is directly contacting residents who may need additional assistance. Staff in Berkeley's Aging Services Division of the Health, Housing and Community Services Department have identified and are contacting 11 Meals on Wheels clients in the outage area. Friday meal deliveries will include additional supplies and food that does not require cooking or refrigeration, as well as PG&E "grab and go" bags. Berkeley Senior Center staff have also contacted approximately 1,000 clients with information about cooling locations, device charging, and heat safety.

Will schools, fire stations, and other public services remain operational?

Cragmont Elementary School is the only K-12 school in the PSPS area. The City has coordinated with the Berkeley Unified School District and PG&E to expedite permitting for a temporary PG&E generator that will help the school maintain operations.

Fire Station 7 at 3000 Shasta Road is the only City facility in the PSPS area. Station 7 will remain operational throughout the PSPS event using its generator.

How will residents receive updates?

PG&E is responsible for customer PSPS notifications and restoration updates. The City has coordinated with Oakland to send a targeted AC Alert message with charging and cooling center information.

Residents should monitor PG&E notifications, AC Alert, and City communications for updated information.

Next Steps

The City's Emergency Operations Center will continue coordinating with PG&E, monitoring weather conditions, and providing resources and assistance to affected residents throughout the PSPS. EOC updates will be provided to the City Council at least daily until power is restored.

cc: Senior Leadership Team
Keith May, Deputy Fire Chief
Sarah Lana, Emergency Services Manager