

## College of Marin PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs Recommendations for Students, Faculty, and Staff

In response to recent catastrophic wildfires in our region, PG&E has implemented a Public Safety Power Shutoff program aimed at preventing future wildfires and likely resulting in multi-day power outages affecting thousands of residents, business and public agencies.

With the majority of Marin County designated as Tier 2 (Elevated), or Tier 3 (Extreme) fire threat areas, Marin County residents, employees, and students must prepare for multi-day power outages. College of Marin, in coordination with PG&E, the Marin County Fire Department, the Novato Fire Protection District, and the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services are recommending procedures and protocols based on the following assumptions:

- A Public Safety Power Shutoff will likely occur in Marin, if not during the current fire season, at some point in the future.
- You should be prepared for a Public Safety Power Shutoff at your residence.
- Even those areas not designated as elevated or extreme fire danger may be impacted because the areas requiring shutoff may include power grids covering wide geographic areas.
- PG&E will consider a combination of: red flag warnings, low humidity levels, forecasted winds, condition of dry fuel, and real time observations to determine when and where to shut power off.
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs will cause major disruption to the entire community and basic services, particularly communications and transportation.
- Although conditions requiring the shutoffs may be relatively short in duration, outages may last several days, due to PG&E protocols for visual inspection of all power lines before restoration of power.
- There is potential for College of Marin campus closures for the day and/or during multi-day power outages.

**Communications**—Communications may be the single most significant challenge before, during, and after the PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs. You should consider communication challenges with College of Marin as well as with your family members. Since communications will be particularly challenging and limited during the outages, it will be important to update and maintain redundant communication channels with students, faculty, and staff, including:

- Cell phone
- Texting
- Landlines
- Email
- Local media outlets

**Possible effects of a power shutdown:**

- No traffic signals working
- Businesses closed
- No security alarms and the potential for increased crime
- No gasoline stations open
- No grocery stores open
- No restaurants open
- School and daycare closures
- Hospitals on backup generators with fuel supply limits/issues
- Residential care homes with elderly/sick/fragile individuals and no generator backup
- Fragile/elderly medical equipment failures (O<sub>2</sub> tanks, ventilators)
- Backup generators with fuel supply limits/issues
- Utilities like sanitary districts and water districts all have backup generators that will not run indefinitely and will also have fuel supply limits/issues
- Cell towers run off electricity and will have generator fuel supply limits/issues

You should also consider a long-term plan if the outage lasts several days. Update your contact information in COM Connect, AlertMarin, Nixle, and with PG&E to receive alerts. Identify backup charging methods for your cell phones. Ensure your vehicles have full tanks of gasoline. Plan for medical needs for you and your family. Ensure you have an emergency kit to include food and water for each family member.

PG&E will try to provide potentially impacted customers with notification and updates 48-hours, 24-hours, and just prior to the power shut off. They will also make an effort to provide additional notifications during the outage, and then once power is restored. In some cases, extreme weather events may not allow advance notice.

**Important information on Public Safety Power Shutoffs:**

- PG&E account holders/customers, register at [PG&E Alerts for Account Holders](#)
- Register at [PG&E Zip Code Alerts for non-account holders](#) with College zip codes (Kentfield Campus: 94904, Indian Valley Campus: 94949)
- Check PG&E Power Shutoff forecasts at [PG&E 7-Day Power Shutoff Potential](#)
- Update your contact information in [COM Connect](#) (need student ID or M00#)
- Community Ed students—[register for COM Connect alerts](#) (no ID or M00# required)
- Register at [www.AlertMarin.org](http://www.AlertMarin.org)
- Register at <http://www.nixle.com/> (text zip codes to 888777)
- [PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Community Wildfire Safety Program Information](#)
- [PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Service Impact Map](#)
- [Preparing Your Facility for Potential Power Outages](#)

**An Opportunity to Build Resilience and Increase Preparedness**—While we cannot be certain if a PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff will impact the College or your residence, we know that we must do everything we can to be prepared. The efforts we take now to prepare will help build resilience and preparedness in our community for earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters as well as Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Thank you for all that you do to help us to be prepared!



[PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Community Wildfire Safety Program Information](#)  
**SAMPLE / DRAFT Letter 48-Hour (or 24-Hour or Final) Notice**

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

College of Marin (COM) just received a 48-Hour (or 24-hour, or final) notification from PG&E that a Public Safety Power Shutoff may impact our campuses starting at approximately (XX PM on, XXXX Date).

Please keep in mind:

- **In the event that the power is shut down during daylight hours**, COM campuses will remain open and day classes will continue as scheduled.
- **In the event that the power is shut down in the evening**, classes may be excused and campuses will be closed until power is restored. Students, faculty, and staff should use caution when leaving campus.
- **In the event that the power is shut down outside of normal operating hours**, campuses will be closed until power is restored. Based on estimates from PG&E, Public Safety Power Shutoffs may result in extended power outages of several days.
- **Communication during the power outage**—We will make every effort to provide updated information regarding status and timing of the anticipated restoration of power, using whatever information channels are available (cell phone, landline, email, texting, social media) with the understanding that communication systems will be limited. In addition, please stay tuned to local media, newspapers, and social media regarding anticipated restoration of power.
- **When power is restored, campuses will reopen and classes will resume as scheduled.** Notification that campuses have reopened will be sent using available channels (COM Connect, email, COM website, social media, and local media outlets).

In order to stay as up-to-date as possible on the most current information, Campus Police recommend registering your contact information at the following sites:

- [www.AlertMarin.org](http://www.AlertMarin.org)
- [COM Connect](#)  
(need student ID or M00#)
- [COM Connect Open Portal](#)  
(Community Ed Students)
- <http://www.nixle.com/>  
(text zip codes to 888777)
- [PG&E Alerts for Account Holders](#)
- [PG&E Zip Code Alerts for non-account holders](#)  
(sign up for campus zip codes)

**COM Campus Zip Codes**

Kentfield Campus: 94904

Indian Valley Campus: 94949

Here are some additional links with important resources to assist you in being prepared at home.

- [www.ReadyMarin.org](http://www.ReadyMarin.org)
- [www.Prepareforpowerdown.com](http://www.Prepareforpowerdown.com)
- [PG&E 7-Day Power Shutoff Potential](#)

Thank you for helping us to be prepared!

Sincerely,

David Wain Coon, Ed.D.

Superintendent/President

