Power Outage Fact Sheet

Please be advised that there are various types of power outages that occur across the state of California.

What is the difference between a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and a rotating power outage?

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events: Power outages that are ***planned*** as a mechanism to prevent and limit wildfires from starting due to old power lines and hardware that need desperate replacement and updating.

Rotating Power Outages: (Stage 3 Emergencies) become necessary when the state's electricity demand outpaces available supply in real time or are unavoidable. These emergencies are declared by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). Due to the emergency nature of these outages, utility companies cannot give advance warning to customers. Rotating power outages generally last one to two hours.

What other types of power outages may occur?

Planned Power Outages: The utility company informs customers that they will be without power during a specific date and length of time while repairs, or replacement of hardware is completed. Planned outages usually include at least two communications from the utility company. They can come by mail, email, or text. Planned power outages are also posted on the utility company website.

Unplanned Power Outages: A car accident, or even a cat, can cause the power to go out in neighborhoods. Once notified, the utility company will post a notice on their website, but often they are unable to state when power will be restored.