

## PG&E power shutoffs could last 3 days

Newstex Blogs

CalMatters

October 14, 2020 Wednesday 2:35 PM EST

Copyright 2020 Newstex LLC All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 2405 words

**Byline:** Emily Hoeven

### Body

---

Oct 14, 2020( CalMatters: <https://calmatters.org> Delivered by Newstex) ;;; Good morning, California. It's Wednesday, October 14. Note: To prevent the newsletter from being caught in spam filters, please add [emily@calmatters.org](mailto:emily@calmatters.org) to your address book or contact your email administrator.; Incoming: fast winds Power lines are silhouetted by the sun on a smoky sky in Oakland on June 30, 2018. Photo by Ray Chavez, Bay Area News Group Tens of thousands of Californians may be forced to spend the next few days without power while dry, powerful winds slam the northern part of the state. PG&E said Tuesday it will likely cut power to about 54,000 customers[1] in portions of 24 counties through Friday while much of Northern California remains under a red-flag warning of extreme fire danger[2]. This would mark the third[3] time[4] the utility has shut off power amid a record-breaking fire season that has already seen more than 4.1 million acres burned[5]. Still, PG&E appears to have improved its shutoff process since last October, when millions of Californians lost power for days and some saw hundreds of dollars of food spoil in their fridges[6]. Last month, Gov. Gavin Newsom tentatively praised PG&E[7] for improved communication and more targeted shutoffs.

The utility said Tuesday[8] it was deploying temporary microgrids and generators to provide power to 12,000 customers who would have otherwise lost it. Calistoga City Manager Mike Kirn[9]: 'It's very positive, otherwise we'd be 100% out of power. We're encouraged by the efforts that PG&E has put forward, and hopefully this (shutoff) will be much smoother than the last one.' Still, the utility has a tough road ahead. Cal Fire is currently investigating whether PG&E equipment may have sparked the deadly Zogg Fire[10] in Shasta County, and the utility just recently emerged from bankruptcy incurred by billions of dollars in wildfire-related liability costs[11]. Statewide, temperatures are expected to reach 10 to 20 degrees above normal[12] for the rest of the week, marking yet another mini heat wave after the Golden State slogged through its warmest April-to-September period in 126 years[13]. The heat, combined with winds of up to 60 miles per hour and low humidity, could exacerbate fires raging throughout the state — though firefighters have mostly contained many of the blazes. About 11,500 firefighters[14] are currently on the front lines, down from a peak of more than 19,000 in September[15]. \_\_\_\_\_ The coronavirus bottom line: As of 9 p.m. Tuesday night, California had 852,406 confirmed coronavirus cases and 16,581 deaths from the virus, according to a CalMatters tracker[16]. Also: CalMatters regularly updates this pandemic timeline tracking the state's daily actions[17]. And we're tracking the state's coronavirus hospitalizations by county[18]. \$52 million from Uber. \$67 million from dialysis clinic chain DaVita. See how the campaign cash behind California's ballot measures stacks up[19]. Advertisement <https://www.chcf.org/collection/modernizing-payment-californias-community-health-centers/> Other stories you should know 1. State power grid loses two top executives The control room of the California Independent System Operator. Photo by Rene C. Byer, Sacramento Bee Two top executives responsible for running the state's power grid will retire this year, the California Independent System Operator announced Tuesday[20]. The news of Vice President of Technology Petar Ristanovic and Vice President of

## PG&E power shutoffs could last 3 days

Operations Eric Schmitt's departure comes less than two months after the state's first rolling blackouts in nearly two decades[21], though ISO said both men had been 'contemplating retiring for some time.' The independent operator also announced the creation of a new Chief Operating Officer position to help lead the grid's transition to 100% clean energy. Mark Rothleder, currently ISO's vice president of market policy and performance, will step into that role. A recent investigation into the rolling blackouts' cause suggests he has his work cut out for him. The findings — which were released last week —[22] raise serious questions about the ability of California's power grid to meet ambitious environmental goals in the timeline delineated by state officials.

2. Trick-or-treating strongly discouraged, state says Photo via iStock Californians should skip trick-or-treating this Halloween to prevent household mixing amid the pandemic, the state's top health official, Dr. Mark Ghaly, said Tuesday[23]. The state Department of Public Health unveiled a list of alternative activities[24] for Halloween and Día de los Muertos, including online costume contests, indoor candy scavenger hunts and virtual altars. The news comes a few days after the state released holiday guidelines[25] that restrict gatherings to three families outdoors. Still, the overall coronavirus picture appears to be improving in California: 11 counties moved into less restrictive reopening tiers Tuesday[26], and none moved backward. Meanwhile, the state's 14-day positivity rate has fallen to an all-time low of 2.6%[27]. Intensive-care admissions are also at an all-time low and hospitalizations are at a level not seen since early April, CalMatters' tracker shows[28].

Meanwhile, Newsom said Monday he was sending a team to Florida to evaluate Disney World's reopening[29] and to California theme parks to assess their safety measures. The move appeared to smooth over relations with Disneyland, which partially blamed California's strict reopening rules[30] for forcing 28,000 layoffs.

3. Kidney dialysis on ballot — again A DaVita dialysis center in Berkeley on Sept. 13, 2019. Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters The vast majority of Californians have never set foot in a kidney dialysis clinic, and many have no idea how they operate. Yet for the second time in two years, voters are being asked to decide how these highly specialized clinics should function — and the stakes are high, with the campaigns for and against Prop. 23[31] framing it as a life-or-death issue. CalMatters' Ana Ibarra breaks down what voters need to know[32] about the proposition — including the fact that it's the second-most expensive on California's November ballot. Dialysis companies have funneled more than \$100 million into a campaign to defeat the measure, while the health-care workers' union supporting the measure has raised just over \$6 million.

Advertisements <https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/programs/california/> Upcoming events CalMatters is hosting 'Props to You' events[33]— virtual Q&A;As for you to ask all of your burning questions about the 12 propositions on California's November ballot. Check out video recordings of past Props to You events here[34]. Oct. 21, 5-6:30pm: Rebuilding and Resiliency: How We Need to Handle Wildfires From Now On[35]. In this two-part virtual event, CalMatters examines California wildfires through the lens of Rebuilding Paradise, a new documentary from Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard. Register[36] Submit Your Questions[37] CalMatters commentary CalMatters columnist Dan Walters[38]: One of Newsom's recent vetoes will allow school districts to continue diverting funds intended for underachieving students. Vote no on Prop. 16: It would allow racial and gender preferences to go so far as to be indistinguishable from quotas, argues Rick Sander, an economist and UCLA law professor[39]. Vote yes on Prop. 16: It would give us the tools to fight racial and gender discrimination without implementing quotas, argues Jodi Hicks, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California[40].

Other things worth your time Newsom advisers release recommendations for changes in policing at California protests. // San Francisco Chronicle[41] Should felons keep their California pensions? This court case could give a new answer. // Sacramento Bee[42] California has a reputation for progressive politics. The state's progressives disagree. // NBC News[43] Teachers unions in three large Sacramento districts want schools closed until at least January. // Sacramento Bee[44] California's coronavirus equity metric aims to protect vulnerable communities. But will small businesses suffer? // San Francisco Chronicle[45] Uber, Lyft seek to stave off AB 5 at appeals court. // San Francisco Chronicle[46] Los Angeles County to pay \$14 million over unlawful immigration holds. // Los Angeles Times[47] San Francisco birds have changed the way they sing during the shutdown. // SF Gate[48] See you tomorrow. Tips, insight or feedback? Email [emily@calmatters.org](mailto:emily@calmatters.org) [49]. Follow me on Twitter: @emily\_hoeven[50] Subscribe to CalMatters newsletters here[51]. Follow CalMatters on Facebook[52] and Twitter[53]. CalMatters is now available in Spanish on Twitter[54], Facebook[55] and RSS[56]. [ 1]: <http://investor.pgecorp.com/news-events/press-releases/press-release-details/2020/Forecasted-Offshore-Dry-Wind-Event-Means-PGE-May-Need-to-Proactively-Turn-Off-Power-for-Safety-in-Targeted-Portions-of-24-Counties/default.aspx> [ 2]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Latest-PG-E-blackouts-could-leave-homes-without-15645405.php> [ 3]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/california-fires-winds-pge-outage-psps/> [ 4]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/california-gavin-newsom-sign-veto-bills/> [

## PG&E power shutoffs could last 3 days

5]: <https://fire.ca.gov/daily-wildfire-report/> [ 6]: <https://calmatters.org/projects/california-psps-power-shutoffs-poverty-spoiled-food-hunger/> [ 7]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/09/california-fire-news-wind-pge-outage/> [ 8]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Latest-PG-E-blackouts-could-leave-homes-without-15645405.php> [ 9]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Latest-PG-E-blackouts-could-leave-homes-without-15645405.php> [ 10]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/10/pge-zogg-fire-investigation/> [ 11]: <https://calmatters.org/environment/california-wildfires/2020/03/california-pge-bankruptcy-gavin-newsom-deal/> [ 12]: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-13/more-heat-wind-will-blast-california-heightening-fire-danger> [ 13]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/10/pge-zogg-fire-investigation/> [ 14]: <https://fire.ca.gov/daily-wildfire-report/> [ 15]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/California-hasn-t-needed-this-many-firefighters-15642003.php> [ 16]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/03/california-coronavirus-by-the-numbers-cases-testing-masks-hospital-beds/> [ 17]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/gavin-newsom-coronavirus-updates-timeline/> [ 18]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/california-coronavirus-covid-patient-hospitalization-data-icu/> [ 19]: <https://calmatters.org/politics/post-it/2020/10/biggest-spenders-california-props-campaigns-ballot-measures/> [ 20]: <http://www.caiso.com/Documents/California-ISO-Announces-Retirements-Creation-Executive-Position.pdf> [ 21]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/08/california-pge-blackouts-lightning-fire-tornado/> [ 22]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/10/why-california-rolling-blackouts/> [ 23]: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-13/california-halloween-trick-or-treat-state-health-officials-coronavirus> [ 24]: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Safer-Halloween-and-Dia-de-los-Muertos-Celebrations-during-COVID-19.aspx> [ 25]: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-10-09.aspx#:~:text=Gatherings%20that%20include%20more%20than,interact%20with%20stable%20over%20time.> [ 26]: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> [ 27]: <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/> [ 28]: <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/california-coronavirus-covid-patient-hospitalization-data-icu/> [ 29]: <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-10-12/before-theme-parks-disneyland-reopen-newsom-plan> [ 30]: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2020/10/california-more-fire-danger-ahead/> [ 31]: <https://calmatters.org/election-2020-guide/proposition-23-kidney-dialysis-clinics/> [ 32]: <https://calmatters.org/health/2020/10/should-dialysis-rules-up-to-voters/> [ 33]: <https://calmatters.org/events/2020/09/props-to-you-california-propositions/> [ 34]: <https://calmatters.org/events/2020/09/props-to-you-california-propositions/> [ 35]: <https://calmatters.org/events/2020/10/rebuilding-and-resiliency-how-we-need-to-handle-wildfires-from-now-on/> [ 36]: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rebuilding-and-resiliency-how-we-need-to-handle-wildfires-from-now-on-tickets-124614424097> [ 37]: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKG7pHNnRqAunghWThjApu6W\\_k\\_0H2ldKew-M2mZz0P11FQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKG7pHNnRqAunghWThjApu6W_k_0H2ldKew-M2mZz0P11FQ/viewform) [ 38]: <https://calmatters.org/?p=144012> [ 39]: <https://calmatters.org/?p=144021> [ 40]: <https://calmatters.org/?p=144016> [ 41]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Newsom-advisers-urge-changes-in-policing-at-15645466.php> [ 42]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article246355140.html> [ 43]: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/california-has-reputation-progressive-politics-don-t-tell-state-s-n1243023> [ 44]: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article246316155.html> [ 45]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/California-s-health-equity-measure-aims-to-15645443.php> [ 46]: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Uber-Lyft-seek-to-stave-off-AB5-at-appeals-court-15645147.php> [ 47]: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-13/sheriffs-department-immigration-holds-settlement> [ 48]: <https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/San-Francisco-birds-changed-song-calling-15639968.php> [ 49]: [emily@calmatters.org](mailto:emily@calmatters.org) [ 50]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&#38;id=fdbf3734c1&#38;e=8df3ed9f4c> [ 51]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&#38;id=2a7ce24a72&#38;e=8df3ed9f4c> [ 52]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&#38;id=9b9a39b357&#38;e=8df3ed9f4c> [ 53]: <https://calmatters.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&#38;id=ad27afd972&#38;e=8df3ed9f4c> [ 54]:

## PG&E power shutoffs could last 3 days

[https://twitter.com/calmatters\\_es](https://twitter.com/calmatters_es) [ 55]: <https://www.facebook.com/calmatterses> [ 56]:  
<https://calmatters.org/category/calmatters-en-espanol/>

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2020

---

End of Document