



Wildfire, Air Quality, PSPS ~ School Community Briefing

May 25, 2021

Big Picture

We know how to do this...

- Air Quality

- Public Safety Power Shutoffs

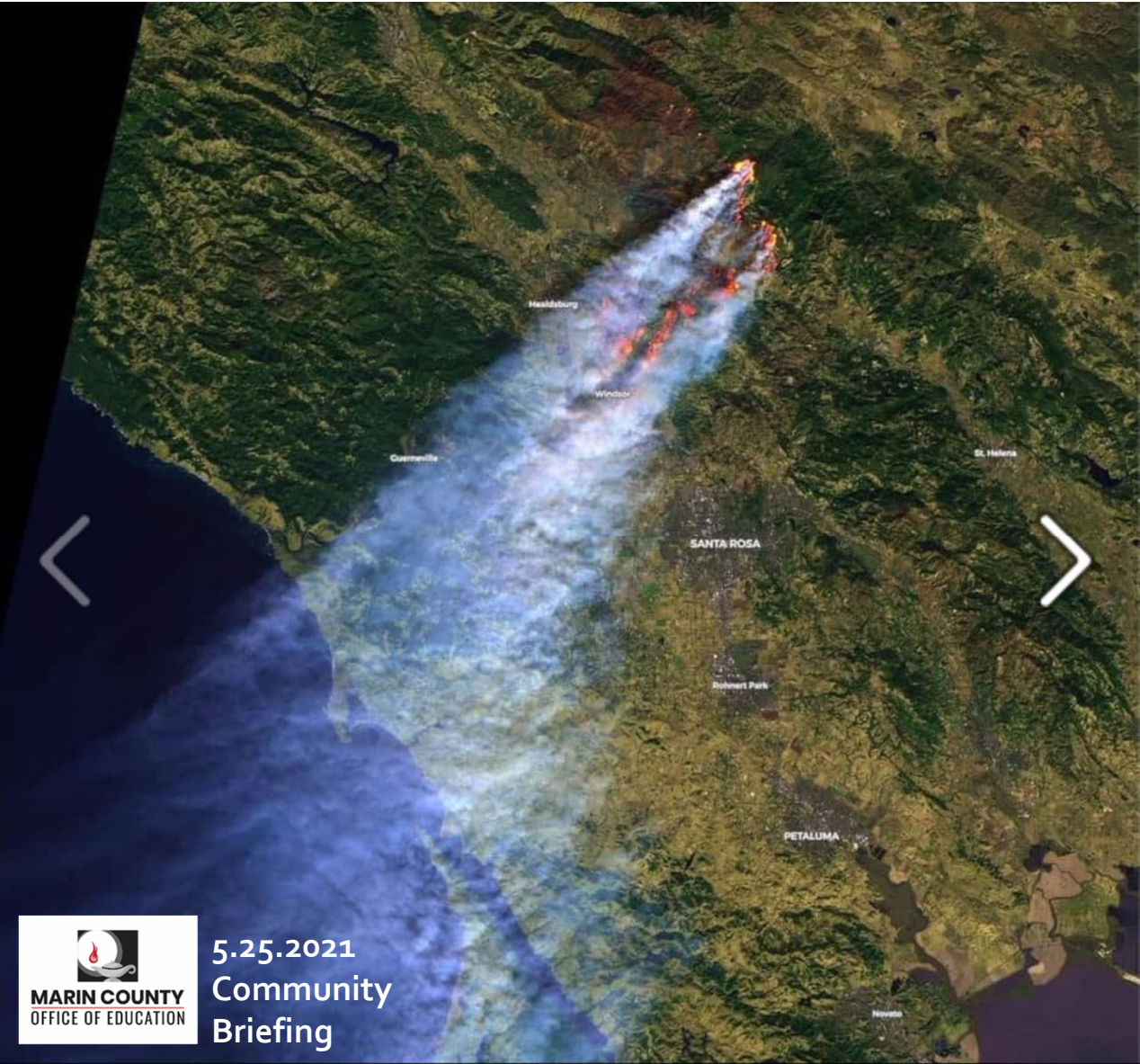
- Wildfire

Impacts on School Operations

Communications and Planning

What we have learned, and what has changed since COVID






We are ready!



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May 2021 Update ~ Marin County Air Quality Outdoor Activity Overview and Communication Protocols for Schools

Regular physical activity promotes health and fitness. The table below shows when and how to modify outdoor physical activity based on the Air Quality Index (AQI). This guidance can help protect the health of all children, including teenagers, who are more sensitive than adults to air pollution. Check the air quality daily at www.AirNow.gov*. The Marin County Office of Education will be in close contact with Public Health and may convene a zoom meeting or conference call if needed. The table is a modified version of a publication provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control, with input from the Marin County Public Health Officer based on experiences during regional wildfires and community response. (5.25.2021 update)

Air Quality Index	Outdoor Activity Overview and Communication Protocols
 <p>green</p> <p>GOOD = 0-50</p>	Great day to be active outside!
 <p>yellow</p> <p>MODERATE = 51-100</p>	Good day to be active outside! Students who are unusually sensitive to air pollution could have symptoms.**
 <p>orange</p> <p>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS = 101-150</p>	It's OK to be active outside, especially for short activities such as recess and physical education (PE). For longer activities such as athletic practice, take more breaks and do less intense activities. Watch for symptoms and take action as needed.* Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy. See additional detail in School Air Quality Activity Recommendations Chart on next page.
 <p>red</p> <p>UNHEALTHY = 151-200</p>	For all outdoor activities , take more breaks and do less intense activities. Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities. Watch for symptoms and take action as needed.** Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy. See additional detail in School Air Quality Activity Recommendations Chart on next page.
 <p>purple</p> <p>VERY UNHEALTHY = 201-300</p>	Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities. Schools generally remain best environment for students.

*www.AirNow.gov will be utilized as the most accurate measure of regional AQI, used by the California Air Resources Board and U.S. EPA, and now includes a fire and smoke map with data from more localized low cost sensors such as Purple Air.

Air Quality and Public Health

Air Quality Index (AQI) with familiar colors...

AirNow.gov is our primary source (more on that later)

Schools stay open – generally best environment for students.

Communications Plan is in place

School District Communications out to parents in advance

Public Health in regular communication with MCOE

Zoom or Conference calls may be initiated by MCOE or Public Health in Red and/or Purple Tier

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Updated Activities Guide

Indoor Activities may be impacted as advised by Public Health

Dependent on COVID transmission rates, and vaccination rates

Protocols may change by Fall

Conference Calls may be initiated to advise on indoor activity protocols



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School Air Quality Activity Recommendations 2021-22 School Year - May 2021 Update

PROTECT STUDENT HEALTH DURING POOR AIR QUALITY

Air quality is an important consideration for schools in terms of student activities. Local air districts are available to assist schools with understanding local air quality concerns and actions they can take to protect student health. To find out more, contact your local air district. Visit this page to learn which District serves your area: www.arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php



5.25.2021 Update

The following school activity recommendations are based on consultation with health researchers and several important principles drawn from recent studies. Modify these levels to correspond with the AQI, emissions concentration, or other air district recommended method for your region.

Activity	Air Quality Level				
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3 Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities.	LEVEL 4 Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities.	LEVEL 5 School districts may consider school closures based on site-by-site concerns. ***
Recess (15min)	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.*	Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities.
P.E. (1hr)	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.*	Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities.
Athletic Practice & Training (2-4hrs)	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Exercise indoors or reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. Public Health will advise on allowable indoor activities.
Scheduled Sporting Events	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Event must be rescheduled or relocated.

* Sensitive Individuals include all those with asthma or other heart/lung conditions ** California Interscholastic Federation

*** In general the best place for students is to be in school. To meet the conditions for approval of a waiver due to emergency conditions (Form J-13A) from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction poor air quality must be shown to be caused by an emergency event such as a wildfire.



Marin County is a High-Fire Threat District

Hot and dry weather forecast

Vegetation Management efforts

Please Visit www.firesafemarin.org

Prepare yourself

Harden Your Home

Create a Fire-Smart Yard

Ready your community

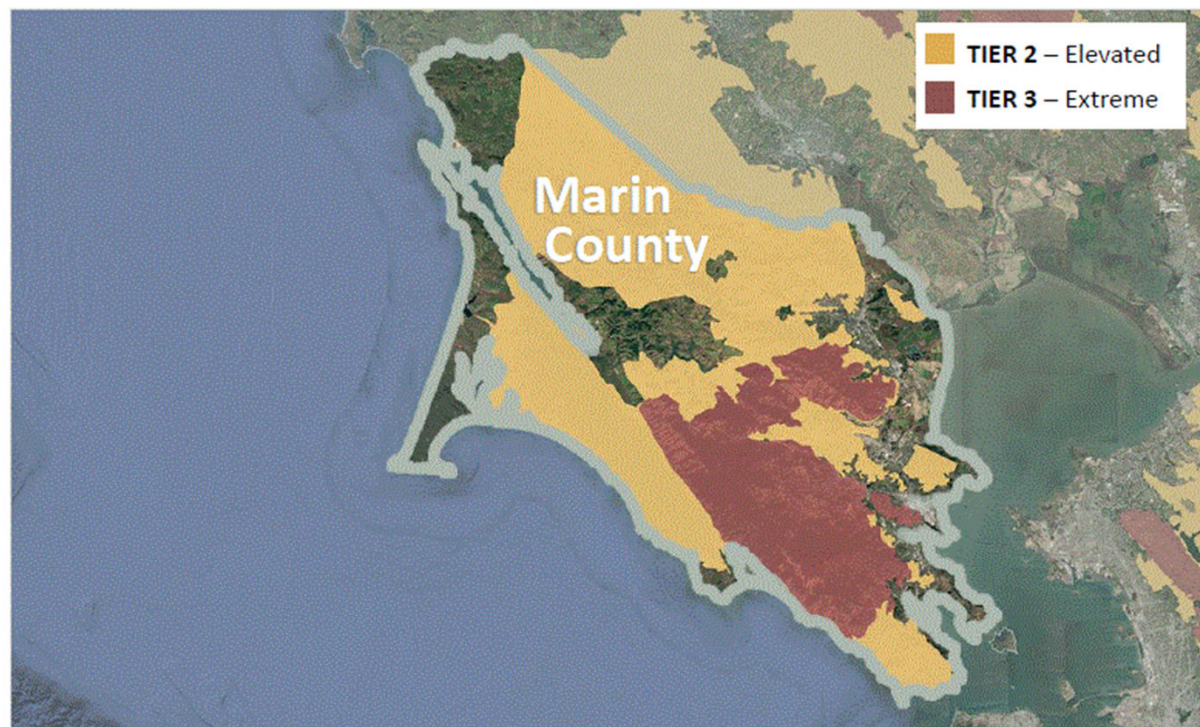
[Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority](http://www.firesafemarin.org)



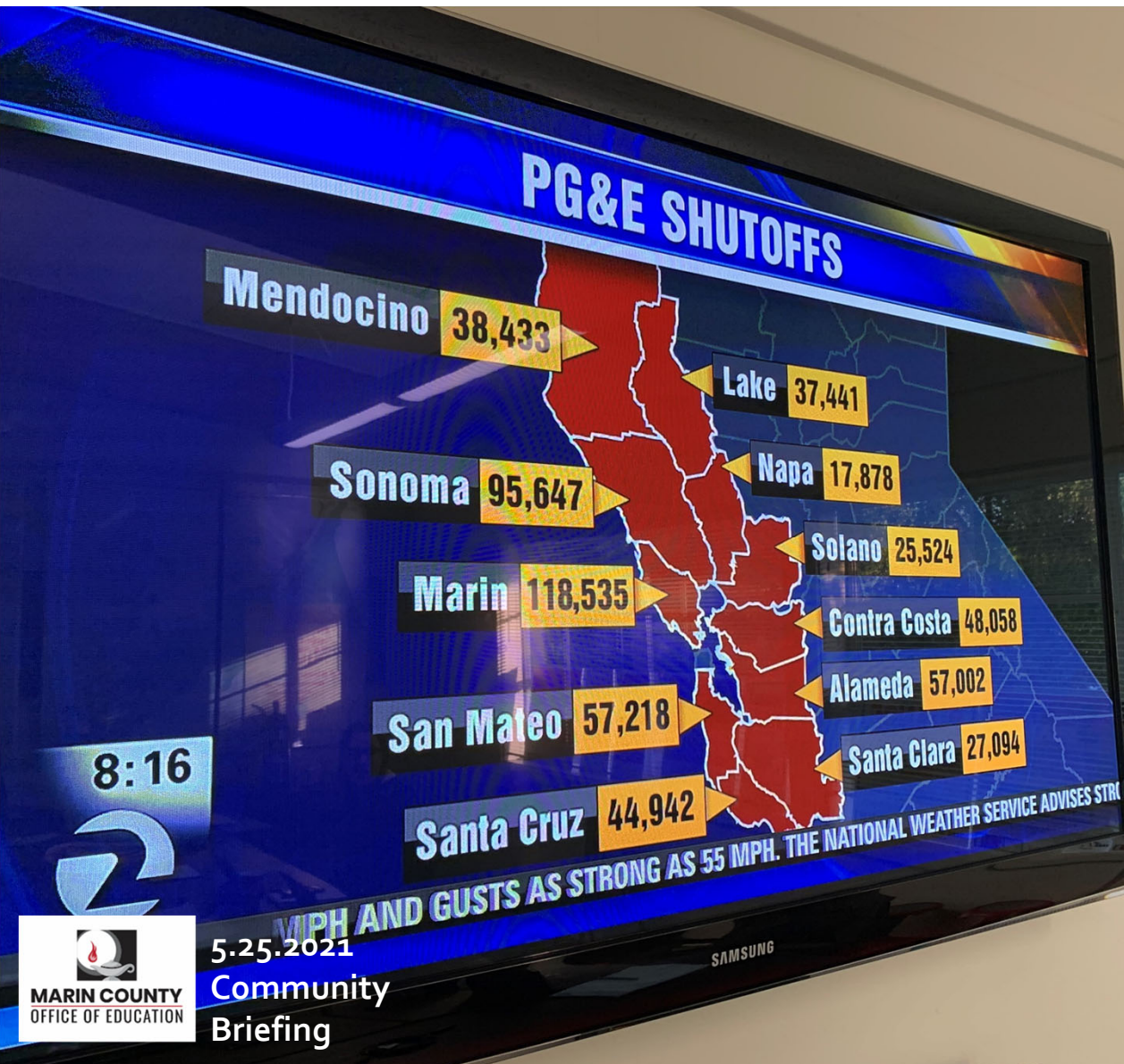
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CPUC High Fire-Threat District Map - Marin County



Following the wildfires in 2017 and 2018, some of the changes included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce future wildfire risk.



PG&E ~ Get Ready for Public Safety Power Shut Offs

Clint Hicks, Local Customer Relationship Manager – will be in communication with Marin Schools before, during and after PSPS event

Austin Sharp, Supervisor Customer Care

Jim Wickham, Public Safety Specialist
Marin County

Mark van Gorder, Sr. Government and Public Affairs

[**PG&E PSPS Information Link**](#)



What Weather Could Lead To A PSPS?

While no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include:



A RED FLAG WARNING

declared by the National Weather Service



LOW HUMIDITY LEVELS

generally 20% and below



FORECASTED SUSTAINED WINDS GENERALLY ABOVE 25 MPH AND WIND GUSTS IN EXCESS OF APPROXIMATELY 45 MPH, depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate



CONDITION OF DRY FUEL

on the ground and live vegetation moisture content



ON-THE-GROUND, REAL-TIME OBSERVATIONS

from PG&E's Wildfire Safety Operations Center and field observations from PG&E crews

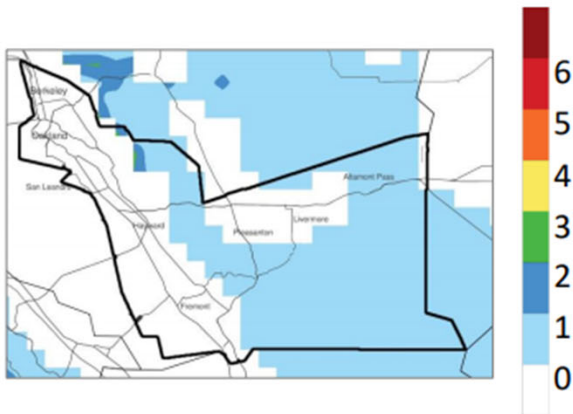
All data is preliminary and based on early 2020 work planning. Data as of May 2020.

Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.

How Often Will A PSPS Event Occur?

Below is an estimate of potential PSPS events in your communities based on a review of 30 years of weather data.

Alameda County



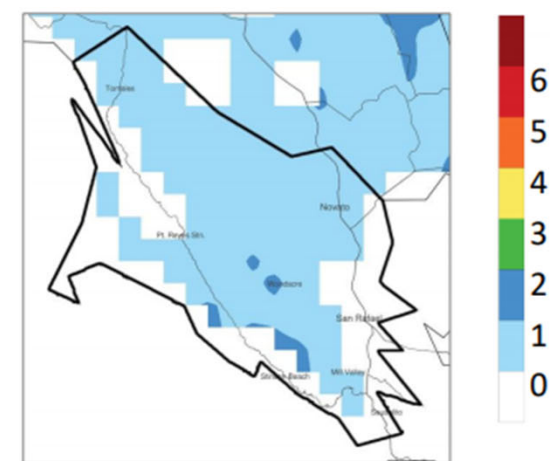
1 event per year on average

Contra Costa County



1 event per year on average

Marin County

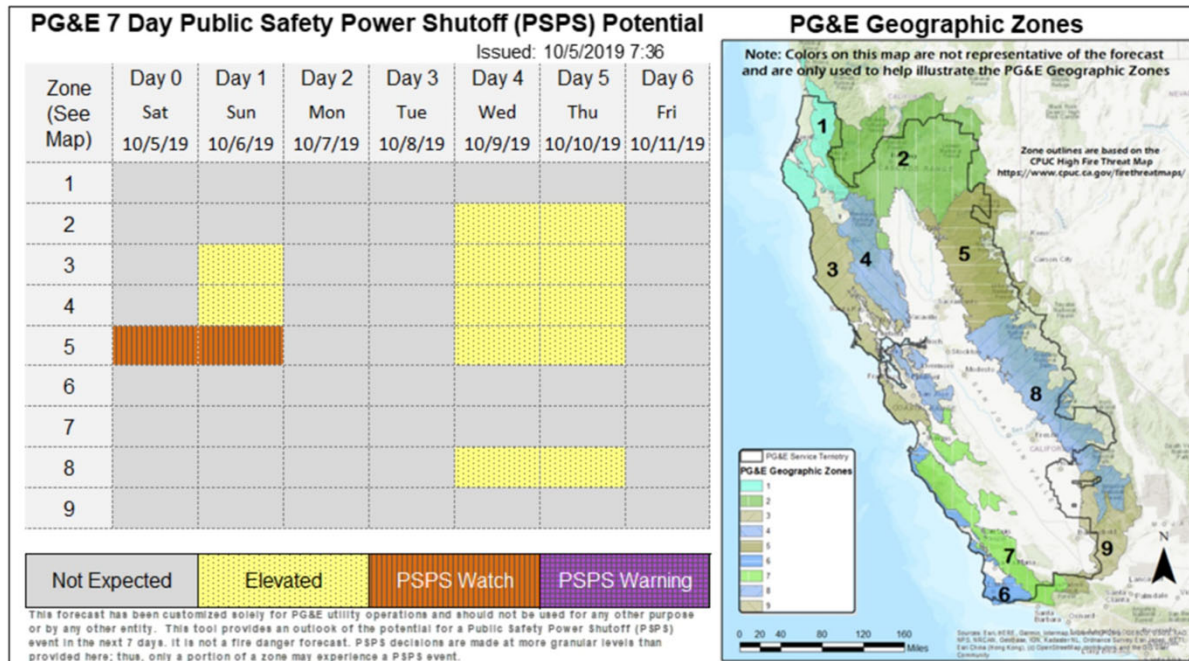


1 event per year on average

The number of events in any particular year will be exclusively driven by the weather pattern experienced and the above historical weather analysis may not be representative of the experience in a particular year.

All data is preliminary and based on early 2020 work planning. Data as of May 2020.

Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.



The information in this map is intended only to provide customers with a general estimate regarding potential locations that may be impacted by a PSPS event should one become necessary. Conditions affecting a possible PSPS event can change quickly and the actual impact of a future PSPS event is uncertain.

Find your PG&E Geographic Zone and 7-day key below.

Saturday, October 5, 2019



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PSPS Potential Weather Maps ~ 7 Day Forecast

Not Planned

Elevated = Being monitored

PSPS Watch = EOC Activated, reasonable chance, typically 72 hours in advance

PSPS Warning = Notification in process, smaller and more targeted areas, may change

Assumptions

PSPS will happen in Marin

Even those areas not designated as elevated or extreme danger may be impacted

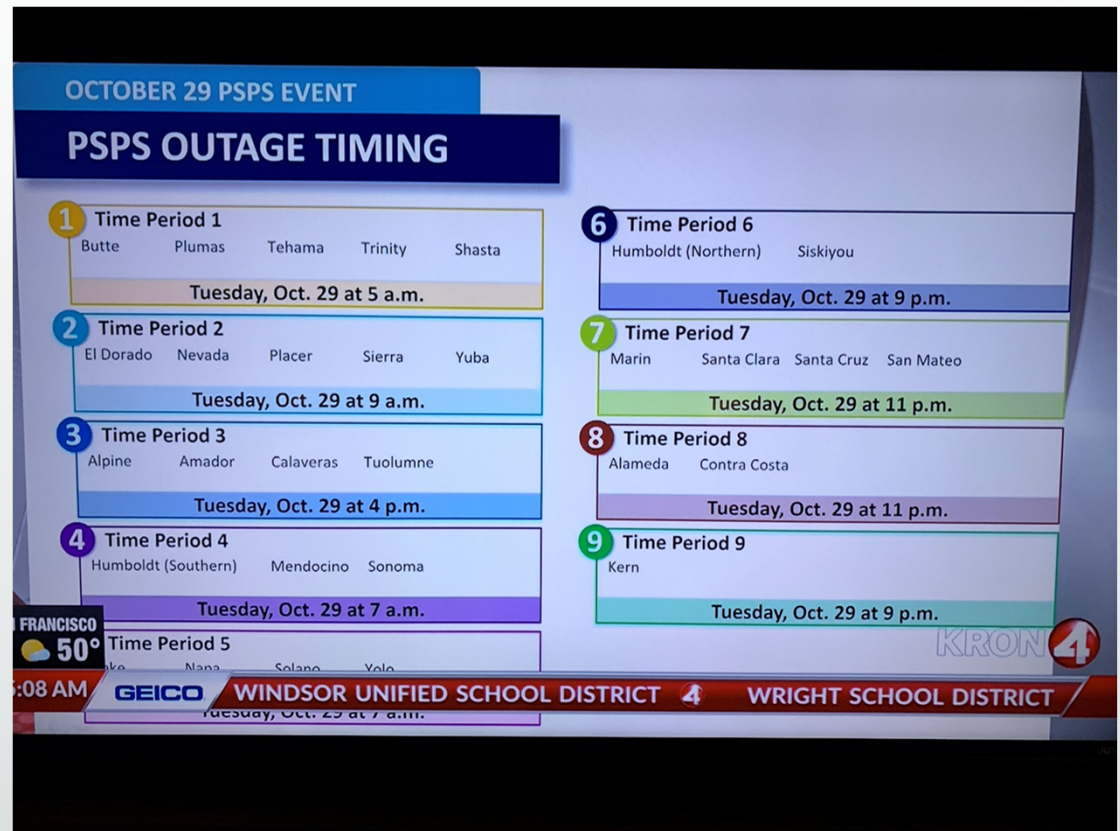
Will cause major disruption to entire community, communications, transportation

Even short events may be multiple days due to requirements for visual inspections

Potential for isolated or widespread school closures



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Marin County EOC Update

EOC Activation or partial
activation for weather and/or
potential PSPS Event

Care and Shelter for Marin
County and neighboring counties

Potential School role in
sheltering or serving as
evacuation center

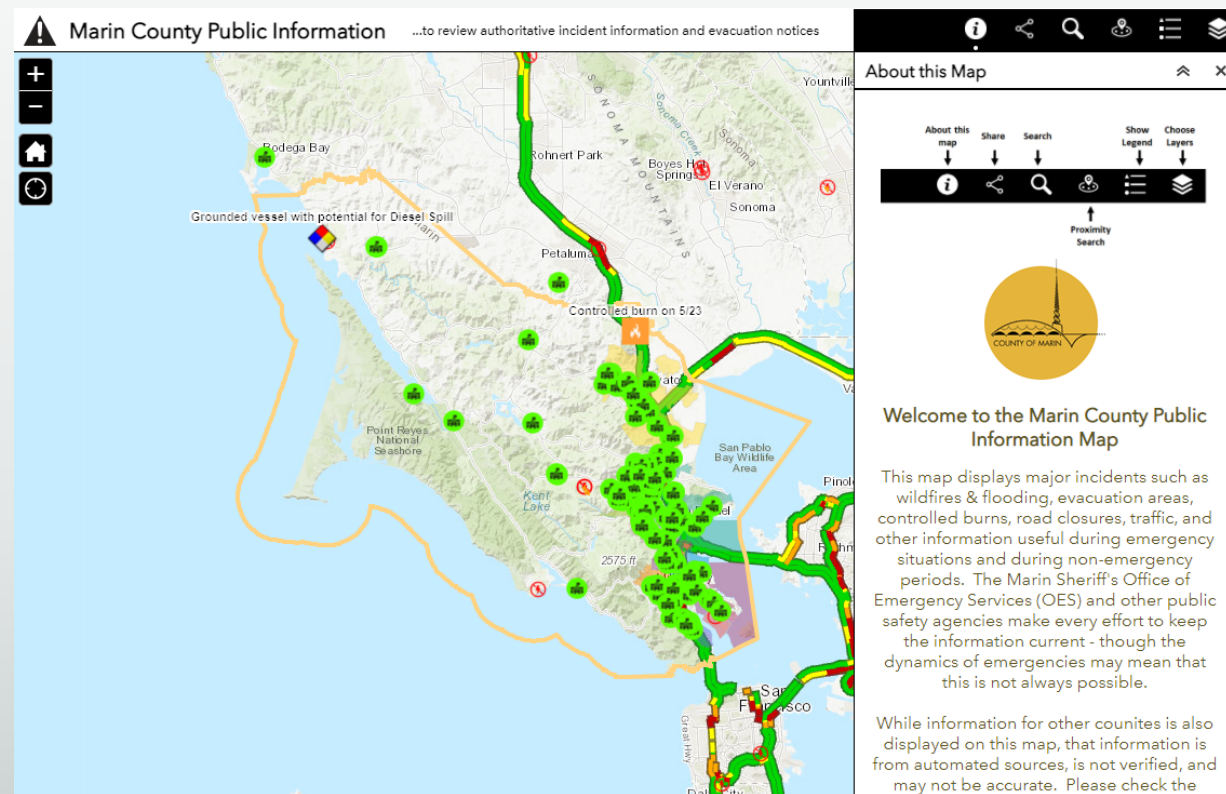
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Marin's **NEW** Public Emergency Portal: <https://emergency.marincounty.org/>

- Fires, flooding
 - Current power outages, PSPS areas
 - Critical incidents
 - Evacuation areas, shelters
 - CRCs, status of essential business
- during critical events (PSPS, COVID, post earthquake)
 - Traffic, road closures
 - Current localized weather
 - School status

Critical info for the public & maps; links to additional information & resources



www.AirNow.gov

Primary Source for Air Quality

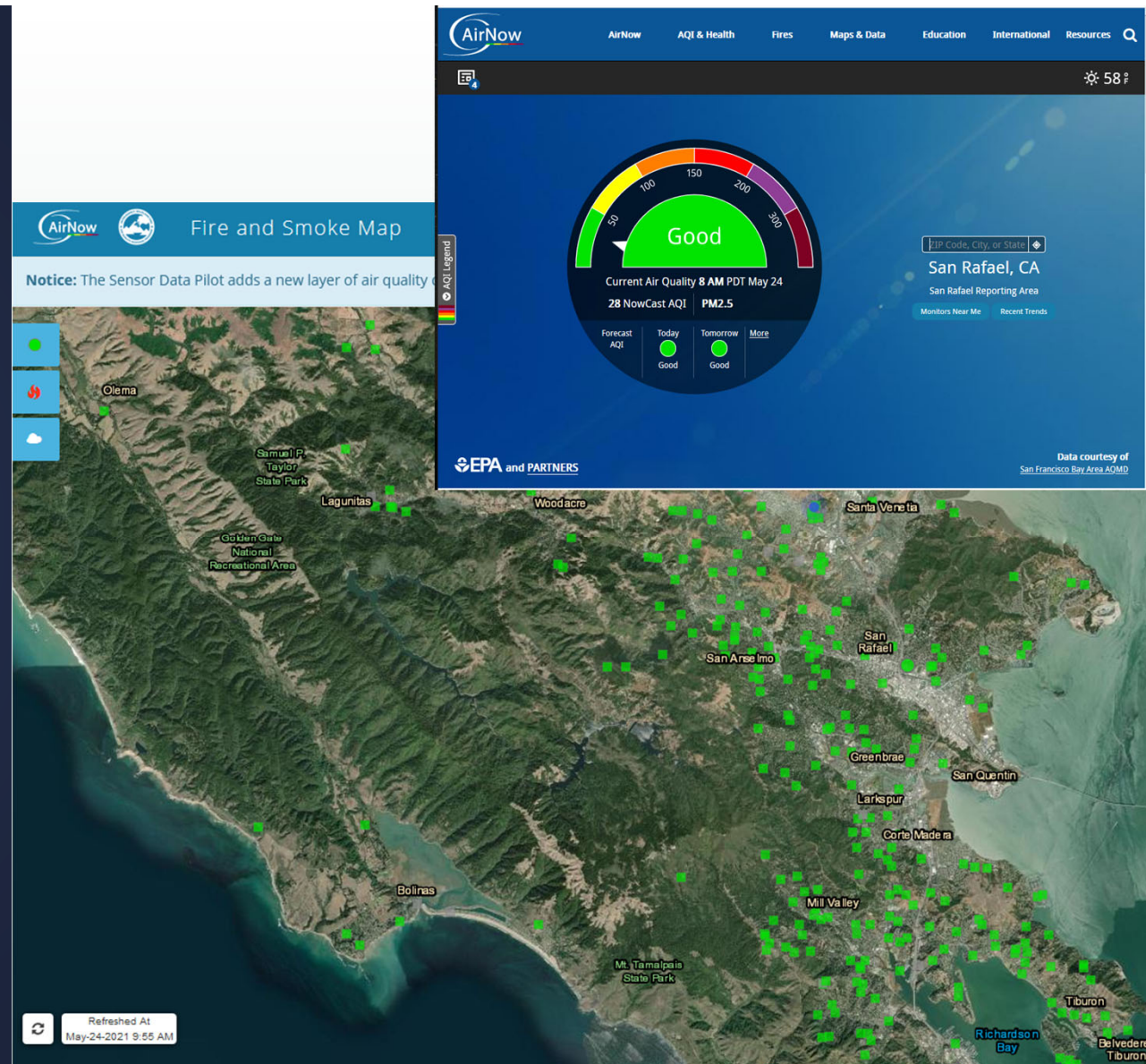
One Air Now Sensor in Marin

Hundreds of personal air quality devices

Fire and Smoke Map includes crowd sourced, and low-cost sensor information such as Purple Air



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Recommendations for Schools

Maintain Redundant Communication channels - cell phone, texting, landlines, email, local media outlets

MCOE Emergency Operations Center

Communications Plan for before, during and after PSPS Event

Register for www.alertmarin.org

Register for <http://www.nixle.com> (text zip codes to 888777)



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A graphic titled "Red Flag Warning" from the National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area, dated September 22, 2019. It features a map of the San Francisco Bay Area with red flag warning areas highlighted in pink. The warning is for the North Bay Hills, East Bay Hills & Diablo Range, from 9 PM Monday through 5 AM Wednesday. The warning includes: Extreme fire danger, Very low humidity, and Gusty north to northeast winds up to 40 mph in the North Bay Mountains and East Bay Hills. The graphic also includes the NWS logo, social media links, and the website weather.gov/sanfrancisco.

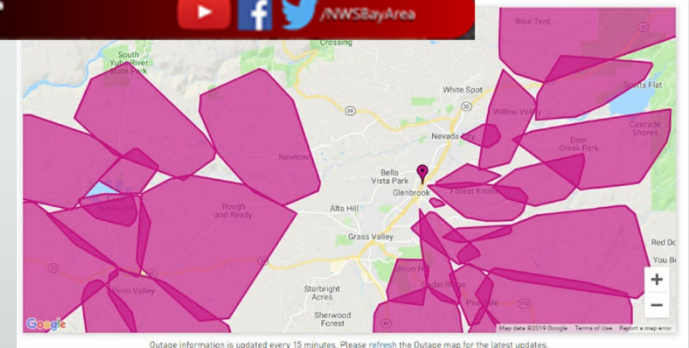
Red Flag Warning Published: September 22, 2019

North Bay Hills, East Bay Hills & Diablo Range

9 PM Monday Through 5 AM Wednesday

- Extreme fire danger
- Very low humidity
- Gusty north to northeast winds up to 40 mph in the North Bay Mountains and East Bay Hills

National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area
weather.gov/sanfrancisco



Planned
shut-off areas

Last Friday, with extreme winds in the forecast, Pacific Gas & Electric announced large-scale power shut-offs to a million homes and businesses.

Protocols for Schools

If power is shut off during school day, school stays in session

If power is shut off outside of normal school hours, school closed until power restored

Have a plan for communication during outage (even posting information at school)

When power is restored, school is back in session



Schools with Generators or Special Circumstances

MCOE Critical Systems powered by generator

Some schools in West Marin are reliant on power for water and sewer systems

Schools that operate with no electrical power need plans for fire patrol and restroom temporary lighting systems (battery operated lanterns)



Dear Parents, Guardians, Families and School Staff:

The Marin County Office of Education in coordination with school districts, PG&E, the Marin County Fire Department, and the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, is providing this information to help prepare our school community for the possibility of a Public Safety Power Shutoff that may result in a multi-day power outage. PG&E will make every effort to provide 48-Hour notification to impacted areas, followed by 24-hour updates, a final update just before the power is shut down. Outages may be isolated to specific geographic areas and schools, or may be widespread with impacts to many schools. Communications will be challenging during the duration of the outage.

Based on the information and guidance we have at this time, the following are the steps we anticipate taking in the event of a power shut down:

- In the event that the power is shut down during the normal school day, school operations will continue through the remainder of the school day.
- In the event that the power is shut down outside of the normal school day, school will be closed until power is restored. Based on estimates from PG&E, Public Safety Power Shutoffs may result in extended power outages of 3-5 days.
- Communication during the power outage – Schools will make every effort to provide updated information regarding status of the outage, using whatever information channels they have available (cell phone, landline, email, texting, social media, local news media) with the understanding that communication systems will be limited.
- When power is restored, schools will be back in session. If power is restored during the normal school day, school will be back in session the following day.

In order to stay as up to date as possible on the most current information, our public safety officials are recommending that you register your contact information at the following sites:

- www.AlertMarin.org
- <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 your school's zip code)

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

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

Thank you for helping us to be prepared!

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Burke

MARY JANE BURKE
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Countywide Communications

MCOE Safe Schools Web Site

PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff letter to parents, and Recommendations For Schools (English and Spanish)

EOC and Public Health Updates

MCOE Communication and Coordination with Superintendents, and Private, Independent and Parochial Schools

Public Information, Press, Media

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District and School Site Level Communications

Send out communications on the plan in advance - through all available channels



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October 9, 2019



TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Tam District Families,

Drake, Redwood, Tamiscal and San Andreas High Schools have full power and will be open on Thursday, October 10th.

Currently, **Tam High School** is partially without power due to the PG&E power safety shutoff. **We will evaluate the situation tomorrow morning at 5am to determine if Tam High will be open.**

Per our protocol, phone and email messages will be sent to all Tam High families tomorrow morning by 5:45 am stating whether or not school will be in session tomorrow, Thursday, October 10th at Tam High. If Tam High is closed on Thursday, October 10th, we will undergo the same process for Friday, October 11th. We acknowledge this is a less than ideal situation and our primary goal remains to provide our regular educational activities in a safe environment with as much continuity as possible.

Tam District PSPS Protocol:

- If power is turned off while school is in session, whenever possible, we will keep students in class through the end of the regular school day.
- If there is a confirmed power shutdown scheduled for a school day the District will close the schools affected and communicate the closures, via email and voicemail, as soon as possible.
- In the event of a power shutdown, if power is restored prior to 5am on a given school day, the District will continue with regular school activities.
- All information related to school closures and re-opening will be posted to our [District](#) and school websites.
- Families impacted by school closures will be sent an email and voicemail indicating closure by 5:45 am
- We will also provide information via Twitter. The Twitter account for the district is: @TamSupt

For more information on PSPS, please visit PG&E's website linked [here](#). Additionally, for information on current public safety power shutoffs, please visit the PG&E weather awareness website linked [here](#).

Lessons Learned

- Uncertainty is only certainty
- Communications will be compromised during PSPS
- Timely decision making and communications on school status is critical
- Equity Lens must be considered
- School is open is the default
- Considerations for operating Schools without power (modified activities, fire watch)
- One day at a time decision making provides flexibility
- Built in PSPS days



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Questions?

May 25, 2021 Wildfire, Air Quality, PSPS School Community Briefing