

From the California Office of Emergency Services (sent on behalf of Mike Roetzer, EHSD Director of Administration):

We are making history together! We have a historic pandemic, California is in the midst of a historic heatwave and we are experiencing rolling power blackouts that have not been necessary since 2001. You will see on the news and read about impending electrical shutoffs in response to the current excessive heat. In the current heatwave, the demand for electricity exceeds supply and as a result, power is shut off to customers to decrease demand. The information below is from the California Office of Emergency Services and lays out important information. All of us can help decrease demand and lessen the likelihood of a power shutoff. Note that the peak period of electricity usage is from 3pm to 10pm.

The hot weather is predicted to continue for as much as another week and demand for electricity will continue to be high. By each of us doing our part, we can keep the lights on for all of us.

Saving Energy to Help Prevent Service Interruptions (From CalOES)

Last Updated: 8/16/2020 at 2 pm

Overview

- Over the next week, California and the rest of the West Coast will face a historic heatwave that will put pressure on our energy grid.
- In order to avoid electricity shortages, states like California are asking residents to reduce energy usage in order to prevent service interruptions.
- **It's especially important to limit energy usage from 3 pm to 10 pm.** That means your air conditioning, electric car charging and other energy intensive technology. Over cool your home overnight and in the morning in order to stay cool all day.
- Sign up to receive Flex Alert notifications from your utility provider to help California conserve energy during times of grid stress.

Easy Actions You Can Take at Home

- **Adjust Your Thermostat**
 - Set your thermostat at 78° or higher during 3-10 pm.
 - Pre-cool your home by setting thermostats to 72° in the early part of the day (when it is more efficient) and 78° or higher after 3 pm
 - Use smart or programmable features to help maintain energy savings when you're not home.
- **Major Appliance Use**
 - Postpone using major appliances like the oven, dishwasher, clothes washer, until cooler times of the day.
 - Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.
 - Wash clothes in cold water.

- Clean or replace dirty filters.
- Turn your water heater down to 120° or the "normal" setting.
- Close Windows and Doors
 - In the morning before the day starts to heat up, close windows and blinds to keep warm air out.
 - Keep windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled air.
- Smart Energy Use
 - Turn off unnecessary lights.
 - Use lamps with LEDs instead of overhead lights.
 - Enable "power management" on all computers and turn off when not in use.
 - Unplug phone charges, power strips (those without a switch) and other equipment when not in use.
- Conservation Programs
 - Consider participating in your utility's demand response program. These voluntary programs are short, temporary measures to reduce energy consumption when power supplies are critically low and a Flex Alert has been issued. Contact your local electric utility to learn about your utility's program and incentives they may offer to participate.

Save Energy at Work

- Lighting
 - Turn off unnecessary office lights, and use natural lighting where possible.
- Thermostat
 - In the summer, set your zone thermostat to 78° or higher, when possible.
- Prevent Leaks
 - Check window vents to make sure they are clear of paper and other debris.
 - Adjust the blinds on windows that receive direct sunlight
 - Keep exterior windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled or heated air.
- Equipment
 - Turn off any office equipment that is not currently in use. Alternately, look for sleep or power-saving modes in-between uses during the day.
 - Enable power management settings on all computers, so that they go to sleep and turn off screens when not in use.
- Break room
 - Unplug electronics such as coffee-makers and microwaves when not in use and when the day is done.