

Our Community: Aging & Disability Conference Webinar Series

Emergency Preparedness Series

“Planning for Public Safety Power Shut offs”

September 11, 2020



Housekeeping

Today's Webinar is being recorded and both this accessible recording and accessible copies of the slides will be on the FREED website.

www.FREED.org

Questions & Comments?

Type your questions in the Q&A tab

Comments in the CHAT tab

Closed Captioning Available: Click on CC on your control panel then click "show subtitle"

WELCOME!



Pam Miller

Executive Director

Agency on Aging Area 4



Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) of Nevada, Yuba and Sutter Counties

Serve as consumer directed resources for long-term services and supports (LTSS) for people of all ages, disabilities, and income levels.

Utilize a “no wrong door” approach, making access to information and LTSS as seamless and easy as possible for consumers.

Bring existing resources together to provide objective information about the full range of options that are available and to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their LTSS



Christina Mills

CFILC

Executive Director



Christina has served as the Executive Director of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) since 2017 and has over 20 years of experience. As Executive Director of CFILC she is responsible for six statewide programs. Earlier this year she launched CFILC's first cross-disability non-profit Disability Disaster Access & Resources program. A partnership between Independent Living Centers and Pacific Gas and Electric that provides people with disabilities services and resources during a Public Safety Power Shutoff, (PSPS).

Ana Acton

FREED

Executive Director



Ana has over 15 years' experience in providing direct services and leadership for independent living community-based services in California. FREED Center for Independent Living provides a wide range of services to people with disabilities living in Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, and Sierra counties in California. As a non-profit Independent Living Resource Center, FREED's goal is to empower people with disabilities to exercise their civil rights in becoming active, productive members of our community.

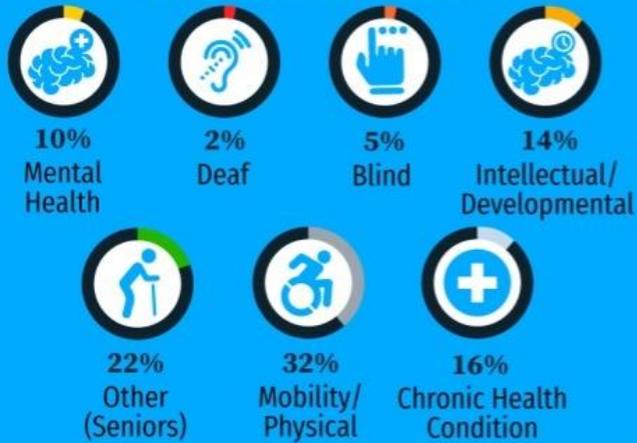
How did we get here?

CFILC and Independent Living Centers:

- Commissioned after action disaster reports
- Sponsor, support and oppose legislation
- Provide expert witness testimony
- Host and participate in disability disaster coalitions
- Regional & local OES coordination and planning
- Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST)
- Virtual and onsite shelter accessibility support
- Fulfill AT and DME needs or provide referrals
- Advisory committee and board participation
- Established the Richard Devylder Disaster Relief Fund
- Accessible Charging Stations at ILCs
- Pacific Gas & Electricity Contract

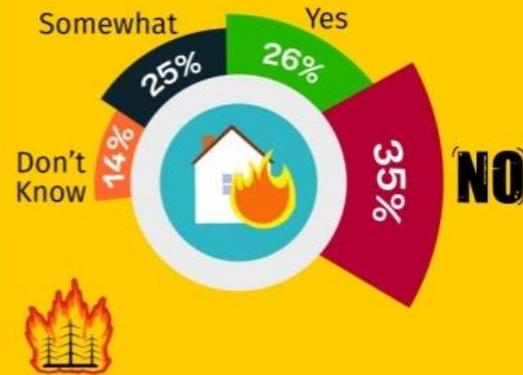
Type of Disability

Out of 445 total respondents.



Disaster Readiness

Are you personally prepared for a disaster?



Needs Should A Disaster Occur

As an individual with a disability/senior what would you need if a disaster or power outage were to hit today? (May select more than one option.)



Electric Medical Equipment

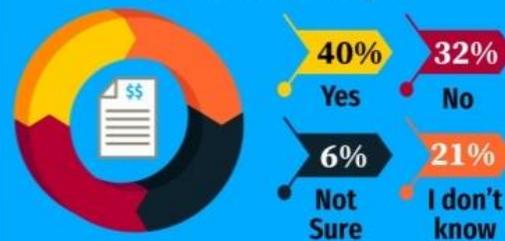
Do you use medical equipment on a regular basis that requires electricity?



If yes do you have a backup plan to keep it usable for up to 5 days?



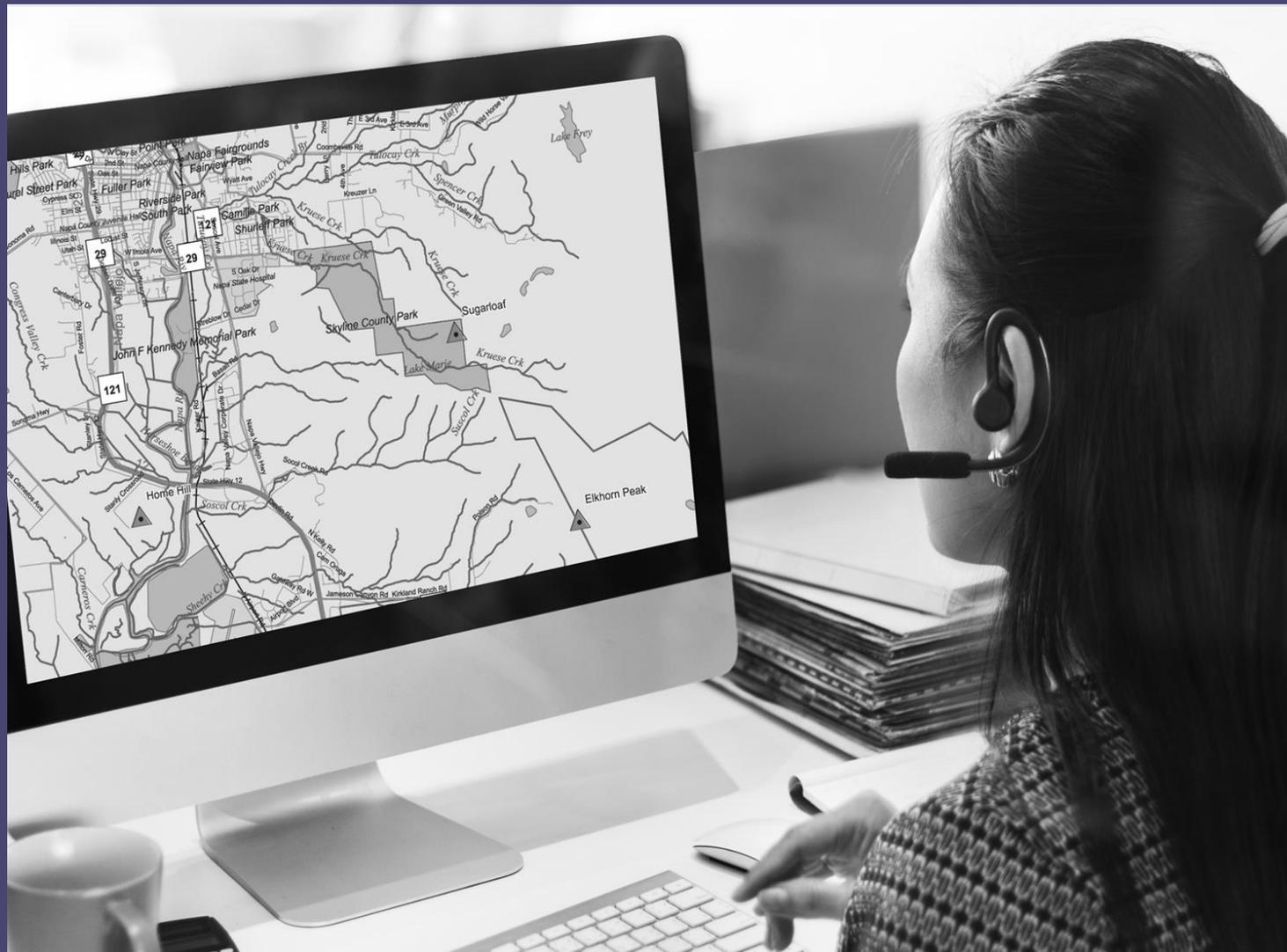
Are you enrolled in your utility companies Medical Baseline Program?



Survey conducted in 2019. 445 total surveys.
Stats rounded to nearest whole number.

2019 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

POWER SHUT-OFF DE-ENERGIZATION



- In October 2019, PG&E executed 5 PSPS event in FREED's catchment area in the northern Sierra Nevada foothills area due to elevated wildfire risk
- In September 2020, first PSPS event
- People with disabilities and older adults require power for life-sustaining measures or independent living

PSPS TIMELINE



September 2019

- Event #1: September 23-25

October 2019

- Event #2: October 5th – 6th three counties, Butte, Yuba, and Plumas
- Event #3: October 9th – Oct 12th
- Event #4: Oct 23rd – Oct 24th
- Event #5: Oct 26th – Oct. 28th
- Event #6: Oct. 29th – 30th

November 2019

- Almost Event #7: Nov 19th

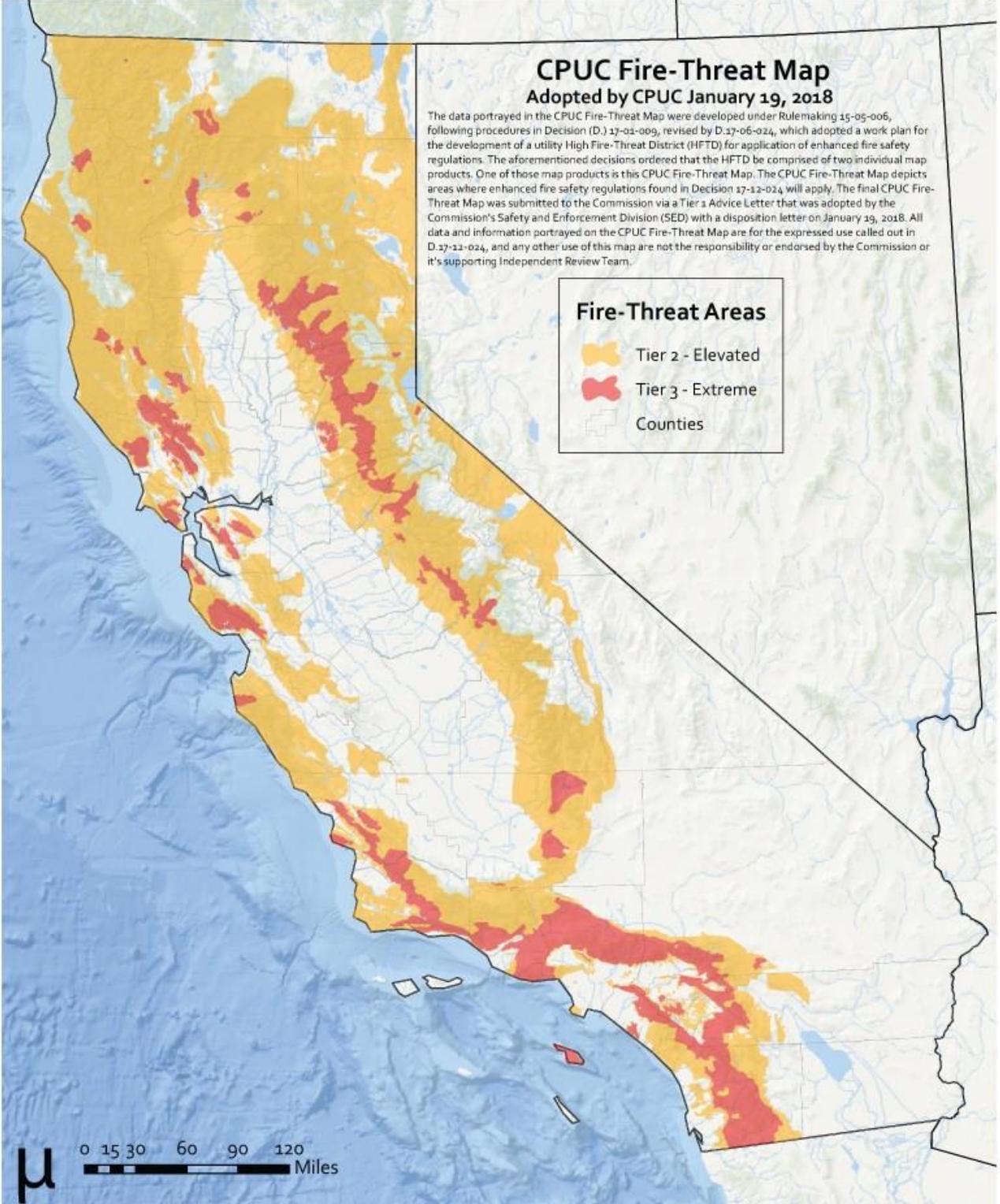
September 2020

- September 7th - ?

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY



Individuals dependent on power for medical devices or assistive technology.



Most Vulnerable Counties Tier 3

- Alameda
- Alpine
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- Contra Costa
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Humboldt
- Kern Lake
- Los Angeles
- Madera
- Marin
- Mariposa
- Medocino
- Monterey

- Napa
- Nevada
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Diego
- San Luis Obispo
- San Mateo
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- Shasta
- Sierra
- Siskiyou
- Sonoma
- Tuolumne
- Ventura

For more information about the data and map depicted, or other matters related to utility wildfire safety, please contact Terrie Prosper at Terrie.Prosp@cpuc.ca.gov
Basemap sourced from: ESR (World Oceans)

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/>



Disability Disaster
Access & Resources

DISABILITY DISASTER ACCESS & RESOURCES

A partnership between the California Foundation for
Independent Living Centers and Independent Living Centers

DDAR PURPOSE:

- The 2020 Disability Disaster Access & Resources program was established to ensure that people with disabilities and older adults with access and functional needs are integrated into California's planning, response and recovery processes of all disasters and emergencies.

DISABILITY DISASTER ACCESS & RESOURCE CENTERS:

- Twenty of California's Independent Living Centers are working partnership with CFILC and the Disability Disaster Access & Resource (DDAR) program as Disability Disaster Access & Resource Centers (DDARC).

[DDARC Directory](#)

DDARC's meet weekly to get statewide program updates, share best practices, discuss challenges and develop solutions.

- DDARC staff are a part of a two-way communication listserv, disabilitydisasteraccessresources@cftalk.org. The listserv is for sharing information on disasters, emergencies, information and resources across all DDARC's. Members of the listserv are encouraged to use it.
- CFILC's lead DDAR staff member is Lisa Austin. Lisa can be contacted for all DDAR questions and concerns.

ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

- No two disasters are ever the same and virtually all incidents disproportionately affect individuals with access and functional needs (AFN) (i.e. people with disabilities, seniors, children, limited English proficiency, and transportation disadvantaged).
- Individuals with Access & Functional Needs vary based on type of emergency or disaster. For example, a person with a disability impacted by an earthquake may not need the same supports and services compared to when a power outage occurs in their home.
- What might someone with access and functional needs to prepare for an earthquake that they would not need during a power outage?

DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES

- The Disability Disaster Access & Resources program is inclusive of both disasters and emergencies.
- Disasters are referred to as natural disasters and while systemic emergencies can cause disasters they are not typically caused by nature. For example, Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS') are not defined as a disaster but do create systematic emergencies that impact individuals with AFN.
- Most California Independent Living Centers have been engaged in providing some type of disaster or emergency support in their community for years. It varies from center to center and county by county.
- Each ILC is encouraged to develop a fact sheet (marketing materials) on what your DDAR program includes. This info can be used for outreach and is recommended to be added to your website under programs.

POWER OUTAGES

- There are different types of power outages that occur across the state.
- **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 done. Planned outages usually include at least two communications from the utility company. They can come by mail, email or text. They are also documented on the utility website.
- **Unplanned Power Outages:** A car accident or even a cat can cause the power to go out in neighborhoods. When the utility is notified, they post a notice on their website, but often are unable to say when the power will come back on.
- **Weather Related Outages:** Heatwaves can result in an increase of household power and therefore cause an unexpected outage. Some heatwaves can be predicted. In those instances' utilities can purchase or lease energy from nearby states that are not utilizing as much power during that time frame.

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS

- Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS') events are 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.

[CA High Fire Threat Districts Map](#)

- California's three biggest Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's) believe that it will take between 10 – 15 years to make all of the needed updates.
- There are three main IOU's in California, but over 30 different utilities statewide. San Diego Gas & Electricity (Sempra owned), Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric.

[CA Utility Companies List](#)



Disability Disaster Access & Resource Centers are **currently** funded to assist individuals with Access and Functional Needs impacted by a **Public Safety Power Shutoff**.

However, that does not always mean that we are unable to assist the individual in need of supports and services.

How can your DDARC assist an individual who calls and is looking for assistance because of a non PSPS event?

DDARC QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must use an electric powered assistive technology device or durable medical equipment as a part of their daily living needs
- Applicant must have a residence within a CPUC Wildfire Threat Tier 3 or Tier 2 area
- Applicant must be willing to enroll in the utility Medical Baseline program if they are not already in it
- Applicant must have or be willing to get assistance from DDARC staff in developing a personalized preparedness plan

DDAR PORTABLE BATTERIES

- Powered assistive technology devices and Durable Medical Equipment are diverse and use a range of watts to keep them on
- A portable battery will not work for everyone and especially for individuals who use multiple AT devices or DME, personalized tests maybe needed
- DDARCs can determine if an applicant who qualifies for a battery would be best served by a short-term, long-term or reused battery
- Applicants who wish to purchase their own battery, but do not have the upfront funds are encouraged to apply for a CFILC Freedom Tech loan
- If an applicant qualifies for a portable battery, they must complete a liability waiver form

GOAL ZERO YETI 3000 LITHIUM PORTABLE POWER STATION WITH WI-FI



- Works well for c-pap, bi-pap, part-time minimal oxygen, charging wheelchairs
- Most people (unless only using for c-pap or bi-pap) required daytime charging at a CRC or other location
- For some it worked well WITH a generator back-up system
- It requires a certain comfort level with technology – or support for troubleshooting.
- Can take up to 25 hours to receive a full recharge

DDAR MOTEL/HOTEL SUPPORT

- Applicants who do not qualify for a portable battery, but have a home within a **PG&E** area should be offered a hotel/motel stay as an alternative during an active PSPS
- CFILC has an established statewide Extended Stay hotel contract that is available for DDARC's to use with a special code
- Each DDARC needs to also setup partnerships/agreements with local motel/hotel rooms
- DDARC Executive Directors in **PG&E** areas have a CFILC debit card that can be used to pay for the motel/hotel room during an active PSPS event
- *CFILC continues to work with SCE and SDG&E to expand the DDAR hotel/motel option*

DDAR FOOD SUPPORT

- Applicants who have a home within a **PG&E** area and are assessed and qualify for the DDAR program should be provided food support, if needed during an active PSPS
- The DDARC debit card can be used to purchase food or store gift cards and distributed to qualified individuals during an active PSPS event
- *CFILC continues to work with SCE and SDG&E to expand the DDAR hotel/motel option*



DDAR TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

- Applicants who qualify for DDAR and have a home within a PG&E area can be provided transportation to and from a community resource or charge station during an active PSPS event
- Applicants can also be provided transportation to and from (one time each way) their home and motel/hotel during an active PSPS event
- Gas to and from these locations can also be covered
- The DDARC debit card can be used to cover these expenses



**DISABILITY DISASTER ACCESS
RESOURCES PSPS SNAPSHOT -
EVENT 1 - SEPTEMBER 7 - 9, 2020**

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ONGOING BASIS

- Work with local OES on emergency planning and sheltering needs
- Provide information to consumers on personal preparedness
- Sign-up consumers for notification and alert systems
- Participate in statewide advocacy regarding AFN
- Identifying individuals who are at-risk due to power shut offs

LEADING-UP & DURING

- Call consumers in the impacted areas
- Work with consumers who have lost AT for replacement
- Suspend normal intake process during emergency
- Embed a staff person in the county operations center
- Visit shelters to provide support to individuals and technical assistance

RECOVERY

- Housing support
- Access to benefits

BARRIERS



- Crisis for individuals dependent on electricity for life sustaining devices
- Individuals with no plan
- High temperatures or drop in temperatures and an ability to stay cool or warm
- Batteries, hotels did not meet all needs
- Batteries too technical for some
- Recharging backup batteries

BARRIERS

- Back to back PSPS events
- Limited fuel sources for vital services and general public
- Access to oxygen
- Single pharmacy
- Inability for individuals to refrigerate expensive medications
- PSPS Events, Red Flag Warning, Pandemic, Excessive Heat, and Wildfires – all at the same time
- Expense of gas for generators



BARRIERS



- Community Resource Centers - Limited hours, unmet need for overnight charging of DME, privacy, temporary tents
- Organizations ceasing service during PSPS
- Re-energizing “surges” damaging equipment and household appliances costing business owners and families thousands of dollars
- Telecommunication infrastructures - Lost Phone and Internet services

STRATEGIES



Coordination

- Emergency Operations Center
Coordination is key
- Coordinate across public and private partners – organizations that already interface with AFN
- 211/ 24/7 call center /County/community-based organization coordination
- Strong relationship, collaboration, and coordination with County OES and Public Health
- Daily County OES emails/meetings to community partners

STRATEGIES

Coordination Cont.

- Homeless shelter recuperative care coordination
- Hospital Navigation - Reduced hospitalization
- Fire Safe Council
- Volunteer support





STRATEGIES

PG&E Coordination of Resources

- PG&E Coordination – Emergency Operation Center Situation Room – feedback loops
- Hotel Vouchers
- Batteries
- Food Vouchers
- Transportation Vouchers
- Meals on Wheels
- Microgrids and Sectionalizing

STRATEGIES



- Utilities develop mechanism to keep power on to critical infrastructure
- Utilities improve communication including to community partners
- Community Resource Centers – overnight, drop off DME, brick and mortar, privacy, charge multiple devices, cooling centers
- Telecommunications develop infrastructure

STRATEGIES



- Proactively identify, outreach, and plan with people who depend on power
- Diverse solutions for diverse needs – back-up battery charging stations, whole house systems, hotels
- Solutions target people most at risk and account for individuals who are low income
- Organizations build capacity to work remote, without access to power or phones

Questions?? & Answers!!

Disability Disaster Access & Resources



Provides individuals with information & assistance, disaster readiness training, backup electricity support, personal preparedness planning assistance, public awareness, and Assistive Technology and Durable Medical Equipment reuse and loan closet referrals; before, during and after a disaster or electricity shut-off.

<https://disabilitydisasteraccess.org/>



LISTOS CAMPAIGN

Step 1: Find Your 5 Trusted Allies and Share Your Plan

Step 2: Prioritize Your Health Needs and Create Lists

Step 3: Create Your Emergency Supplies Kit

Step 4: Plan How and When to Evacuate

Pacific ADA Center Nevada County Partners

- FREED
- Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority
- Gold County Community Services
- Neighborhood Center of the Arts
- Sierra Foothills Village
- The Food Bank of Nevada County

SELF GENERATING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PG&E Customers

Three different incentive levels you may qualify for, with varying eligibility criteria:

- 1) “Equity Resiliency” incentives: Up to 100% of battery costs (\$1.00/Wh)
- 2) “Equity” incentives: Up to 85% of battery costs (\$0.85/Wh)
- 3) “General Market” incentives

https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/save-energy-money/savings-solutions-and-rebates/understand-the-solar-process.page

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/sgip/>

2020 Our Community: Aging & Disability Webinar Series

September - November sessions include:

- Digital Divide - 9/18, 9/25, 10/2/2020
- Social and Emotional Well Being - 10/9, 10/16, 10/23/2020
- Long Term Services & Supports - 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/2020

Register Today!

<https://freed.org/our-community-an-aging-and-disability-conference/>



Take the US Census Today!

The logo for the 2020 US Census, featuring the text "United States®" in a smaller font above the word "Census" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "2020" below it in the same large font. The entire logo is white and centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

United States®
Census
2020

<https://2020census.gov/>

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Vote November 3rd, 2020!

Register to Vote Today –
<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

