

PSPS Forecasted Elevated Fire Weather Conditions

After Action Report / Improvement Plan

DATE: 10.13.2021 and 10.16.2021

Name	PSPS IMT Activation - Multiple	Activation Dates	10.13.21 – 10.15.21 10.16.21 – 10.18.21
Type / Category	PSPS Activation - Forecasted Elevated Fire Weather Conditions		
<u>Activation Summary, Scenario</u>			
<u>10.13.21 Activation Summary</u>			
<p>On October 13th, 2021, SCE meteorologists identified the potential for fire weather conditions in localized portions of Los Angeles County. Locally gusty Santa Ana winds were expected to start in the early morning October 15th and continue through midday. On October 14th, SCE meteorologists identified additional areas of concern for fire weather in Riverside and Ventura counties. Peak winds were forecasted during the period of concern for these areas from 6 am to 3 pm on October 15th. Peak winds were also experienced outside of this period of concern in Los Angeles County on the evening of October 15th.</p>			
<p>Given the potential for fire weather, SCE’s meteorology and fire science experts maintained close communication with the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) to evaluate the developing weather conditions. During this communication, the GACC indicated agreement with SCE’s forecast. SCE activated its PSPS Dedicated Incident Management Team (IMT) on October 13th at approximately 12:00 pm to manage this event. There were initially 4,305 customers in scope for potential de-energization during the period of concern for this event. Leveraging real-time weather station data, switching playbooks, live field observers, and sectionalizing devices, SCE reduced the number of impacted customers and ultimately only proactively de-energized 67 customers during this event for portions of the Steel, Energy,2 and Sand Canyon circuits in Riverside and Los Angeles counties. SCE had to again de-energize the same portions of the Energy circuit outside of the period of concern on October 15th at 10:58 pm, due to observed rapidly escalating wind conditions. Service to all customers was restored on October 16th at 8:57 am</p>			
<u>10.16.21 Activation Summary</u>			
<p>This PSPS event began when SCE activated its Emergency Operations Center on October 16, 2021, at 8 am. SCE had been actively managing another ongoing PSPS event forecasted to be concluded on October 15th at 3 pm. During that event, SCE’s meteorologists identified the additional potential for fire weather conditions in localized portions of Inyo County on the Birchim circuit and Mono County on the Tufa circuit beginning on October 17th with a final period of concern from 3 pm on October 17th to 9 am on October 18th.</p>			
<p>Given this forecast, SCE’s meteorology and fire science experts maintained close communication with the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC)3 to evaluate the potential fire weather.</p>			

During this communication, the GACC indicated agreement with SCE's forecast of elevated fire weather. SCE activated its PSPS Dedicated Incident Management Team (IMT) on October 17th at approximately 8 am to manage this event. The Tufa circuit, with only one customer in scope, was removed from scope prior to the period of concern for that circuit on October 17th, leaving only the Birchim circuit with 3 customers in scope for potential de-energization on one segment during the period of concern. Given observed rapidly escalating wind conditions close to de-energization thresholds during the period of concern, an additional segment of the Birchim circuit came into scope, and 405 customers on that segment were notified of the imminent potential for proactive de-energization. Leveraging observed real-time weather station data and information from live field observers monitoring prevailing environmental conditions, such as potential damage from wind gusts, airborne vegetation, or flying debris, SCE was ultimately able to avoid de-energizing any circuits during this event.

Strengths:

- SCE has instituted an engagement survey process to capture feedback from State and county public safety partners and critical infrastructure customers during PSPS events. SCE encourages these stakeholders to provide survey feedback in daily coordination calls and emails links to the engagement survey once the event has concluded.
- **10.13 PSPS Event:** Five participants completed SCE's engagement survey for the 10.13 event; of those five, all rated the engagement with SCE as positive.
- **10.16 PSPS Event:** Three participants completed SCE's engagement survey for the 10.16 event; of those three, all rated the engagement with SCE as positive.
- Internal collaboration and communication continue to be a strength for recent PSPS activations. It was noted the respective teams have demonstrated excellent follow up and have effectively utilized the tools and resources provided for a successful activation.

Areas for improvement:

- For smaller events, it may be more efficient to forego the Statewide Executive Briefing and communicate situational awareness updates via the PSPS notification form.
- To minimize false positive notifications for this event, in some instances, PSPS notifications were sent to customers and public safety partners only when the circuit or circuit segment was forecast to breach the PSPS activation AND de-energization threshold. This practice should be evaluated for consideration as an official protocol.

Corrective Action:

	Area for Improvement	Recommended Solution	Owner	Resolution Date
1.	The current CalOES Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) requires a full daily Statewide Executive Briefing session irrespective of the number of circuits/customers in scope. For smaller events, it may be more efficient to forego the Statewide Executive Briefing and communicate situational awareness updates via the PSPS notification form.	Work with the CalOES California State Warning Center (CCWC) to discuss options and corresponding thresholds for determining when a Statewide Executive Briefing call is warranted.	"employee name removed"	March 21, 2022
2.	To minimize false positive notifications for this event, in some instances, PSPS notifications were sent to customers and public safety partners only when the circuit or circuit segment was forecast to breach the PSPS activation <u>AND</u> de-energization threshold. This practice should be evaluated for consideration as an official protocol.	Assess options for minimizing false positives by excluding customers from notification in instances where a circuit (or circuit segment) is forecast to meet or exceed the activation threshold <u>but not</u> the de-energization threshold.	"employee name removed"	May 31, 2022