



Bellevue Union School District
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www.busd.org

Safety Updates: PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs/Wildfire Season Information

Dear Families,

As we begin a new school year, student safety and comfort is a top concern. This is also fire season, and it is important that schools and families prepare for both wildfires and power outages. Anticipating these occurrences, we want to provide you with the following information to keep you informed about school safety protocols and to help you and your family prepare.

Sincerely,

David Alexander, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Wildfire Smoke

These [air quality guidelines](#) were developed by Sonoma County school districts to provide guidance for how to protect student health when air quality is poor due to a wildfire or other disaster. They are aligned with [guidance provided by a coalition of state agencies](#) (including Air Quality Management and Sonoma County Public Health) in the spring of 2019. It is recommended that we use Air Now to monitor air quality. If a situation were to arise our school district will consider our local conditions. More information and resources are also provided on the [California Department of Education website](#).

Power Outages

As you may be aware, PG&E is prepared to implement Public Safety Power Shutoffs (also known as de-energization) when weather conditions put parts of our community at high risk for fire. This important precaution is meant to help reduce the risk of wildfires.

It is important to note that power outages are not new to our county—indeed, many rural schools regularly experience outages due to inclement weather.

What you should know about school closures:

- In the event of a planned PG&E power outage that occurs during a school day, we will continue the school day as usual (a regular, full day of school). If the power remains off for subsequent days, schools will be closed.
- The school will send updates via our phone and email message system with information about school closures and when to expect school to resume. Please make sure the school has your most recent email and phone numbers.

Here's a list of school phone numbers:

Bellevue Elementary 707-542-5195

Meadow View Elementary 707-541-3715

Kawana Springs Elementary 707-545-4283

Taylor Mountain Elementary 707-542-3671

- If any of our schools are closed, that information will be available on the district website: www.busd.org
- Power outages may not impact all schools within our district at the same time. In this case, only the schools without power will be closed.
- PG&E shutoffs are not considered emergency situations by the state, and any missed school days will need to be made up after May 29, 2020. If this situation occurs, you will receive more specific information.

Communication

Our aim is to communicate our intent to close school *as soon as reasonably possible* after receiving a notice of an upcoming power outage from PG&E. In some cases, this may come on short notice. Please check the PG&E website for the most current information about your home and school. As well, if a power outage occurs mid-day, we will handle closures on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the anticipated length of the outage, temperature, weather, road conditions, and available transportation services.

Making Up School Days

Should we need to close school for either of the above reasons, our district may have to make up classes by using three emergency days/in-service days built into our school calendar. If we must be closed for additional days, then the state will determine if we need to make up additional days.

What you can do:

- It is very important that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you. Please make sure your school has your current phone number and email address.
- Check the PG&E website and the City of Santa Rosa's Emergency Update Page for the most current information about potential power shutoffs at your home, school, and workplace.

Resources

Following are some resources to help your family prepare personally:

Ready.gov: [General Power-Outage Information](#) | [Fact-sheet on power outages for kids](#)

PG&E: [Public Safety Power Shutoff](#) (including resident alert notification instructions)

[Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoff](#)

[Power of Being Prepared Fact Sheet](#)

PG&E: [Emergency Supply Checklist](#)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: [Homeowner's Checklist](#)

PG&E: [Community Safety Measures](#)

In all cases, student safety will be our top priority.