

# Public Safety Power Shutdown Preparations Brief

May 28, 2020

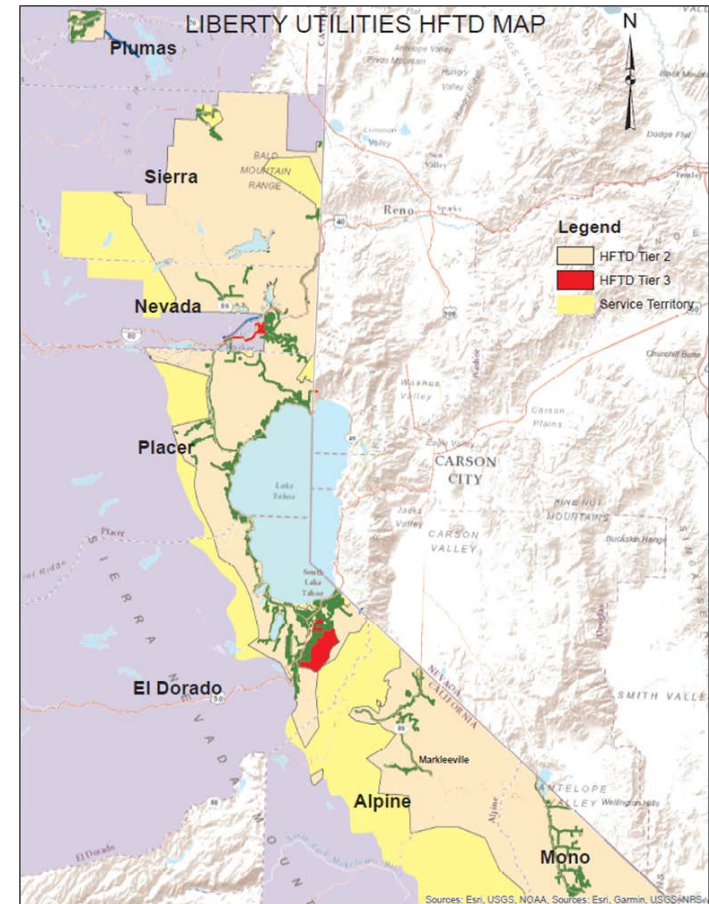
# Liberty CalPeco Service Territory

Serves approximately 50,000 electric customers in California in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Its service territory is geographically compact and generally encompasses the western portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Customers are located in portions of these counties:

- Placer
- El Dorado
- Nevada
- Sierra
- Plumas
- Mono
- Alpine

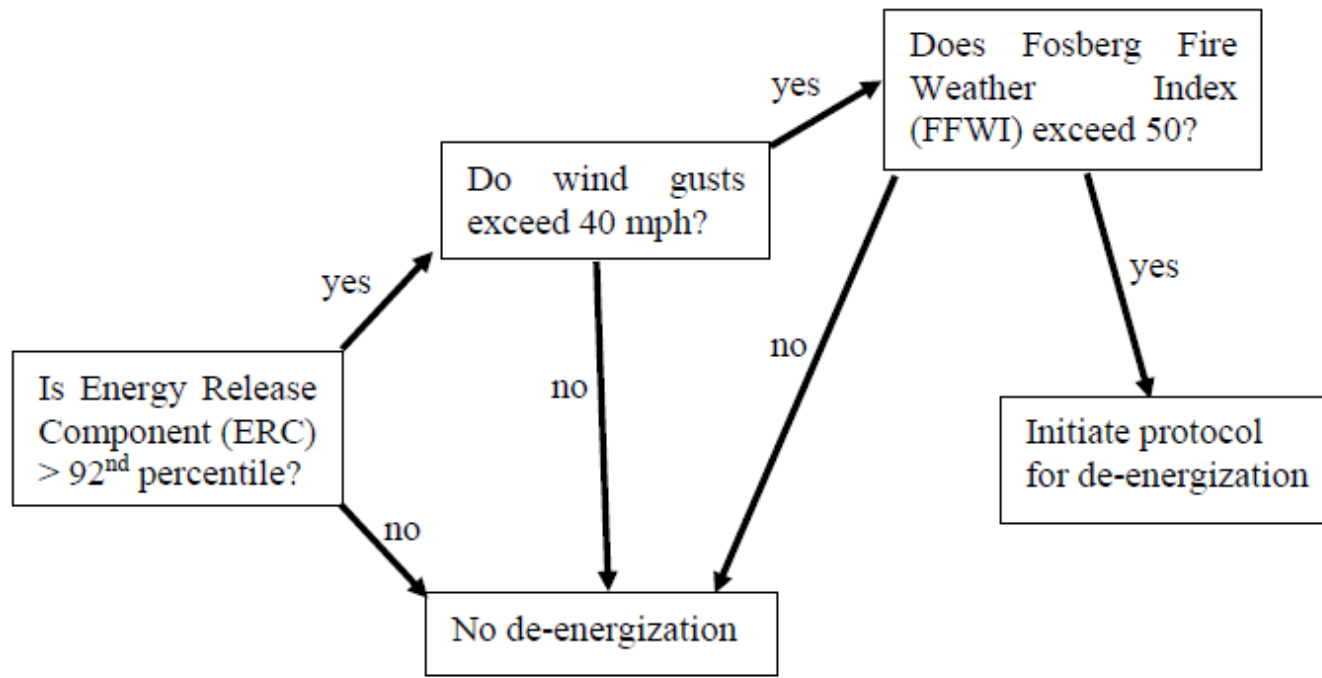
Almost 80% of customers are located in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The biggest population center is the City of South Lake Tahoe. The Liberty CalPeco service territory extends from Portola in the north to Markleeville and Topaz Lake in the south.



# PSPS Criteria

Liberty CalPeco has defined de-energization thresholds based on weather factors known to cause extreme fire risk conditions. The decision tree establishes the “bright red line threshold”

De-energization Thresholds for Prevention of Catastrophic Wildfires



## 2019 PSPS Near Miss

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Liberty CalPeco is working to meet the requirements of D.19-05-042 but has not initiated a PSPS event since the Order Instituting Rulemaking 18-12-005 was issued.

### September 2019 Near Miss Event

- Event team assembled and coordination with agencies commenced
- 5,794 potentially impacted in Nevada, El Dorado, and Placer counties
- Notified public safety partners, critical infrastructure providers, and medical baseline customers of the potential event
- Dangerous weather predictions were downgraded as forecast confidence increased and the balance of customers were not notified.
- Post-event report submitted to the Commission on September 27, 2019

# 2019 PSPS Near Miss Lessons Learned

2019 Public Safety Power Shutoff (“PSPS”) Near Miss Lessons Learned	
Steering Committee	Bright red line threshold is clear, but as we approach, is there room to define cusp thresholds and potential action items?
Operations	More patrols if there is a forecast threshold exceeds.
Dispatch and Control	New Hampshire Dispatch and Control – indications staffing could be a challenge.
Communications	One agency notification was missed  Disjointed systems (Responder, Everbridge, GIS, etc.)
Administration	Logistics, admin requirements are significant and difficult for team lead and other core members to manage in addition to executing the PSPS.  Overlap in roles between emergency management and PSPS requirements
Documentation & Records Management	Explore establishing a role dedicated to documentation and records management

## 2019 PSPS Near Miss Lessons Learned (Continued)

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Liberty CalPeco is taking action to address its lessons learned.

- On November 2, 2019, hosted a table top exercise w/ public safety partners to test communication protocols
- Hired a Manager of Emergency Services
- Hired a Fire Protection Specialist
- Written procedures that address the lessons learned will be finalized in May
- Additional PSPS table top exercises conducted in May
- Comprehensive PSPS simulation is planned for June in order to ensure preparedness for the 2020 fire season
- Efforts underway to install additional weather stations, sample live fuel moisture, and proactively patrol power lines

## 2019 PSPS Near Miss Communications

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- Initial contact with public safety partners was made more than 48 hours prior to the anticipated PSPS event.
- Maintained ongoing communications with partners in Placer, El Dorado, and Nevada counties and the state of California throughout.
- Additionally, general location information was provided, which was based on the anticipated weather event's geographical impacts and affected PSPS zones.
- Prepared news releases for all local and regional media outlets that would have been released between 36 and 48 hours ahead of the planned PSPS event.
- Multiple attempts to reach medical baseline customers including direct phone calls and in-person home visits. Door hangers were left at the residence if contact not reached.

# 2019 PSPS Near Miss Communications (Continued)

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## Medical Baseline Customers

- Database is maintained
- Updated annually
- 295 medical baseline/critical care customers
- Notification Process (in order)
  1. Everbridge messages
  2. Direct personal phone call
  3. House call
  4. Door hanger
  5. Repeat as needed



# 2020 PSPS/Wildfire Season

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## PSPS Season 2020

- Liberty CalPeco is planning for the season to begin June 29
- Typically a window within wildfire season
- Higher temps, lower humidity, drier fuels

## Wildfire Season 2020

- CAL FIRE determines when wildfire season begins
- The organization will begin to prepare staff in mid-June
- Staff will be ready by the beginning of July
- National Weather Service-Reno predicts peak fire season will be late July through August

# 2020 PSPS Program Update

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## Internal PSPS Tools

- Fuel moisture sampling begins late May/early June
- Additional weather stations
- Protocols for proactive patrols
- Fire Potential Index tool
- PSPS table tops and functional exercises
- PSPS emergency response and communications playbooks

## External PSPS Tools

- Community workshops (virtually hosted)
- Toolkit – PSPS educational pamphlets, flyers, and checklists in accessible formats
- Website – PSPS web copy outlining determination and notification process, and customer preparedness educational resources
- Social Media updates (ongoing)
- Customer Email notification determination and notification process
- Bill insert notification to customers for PSPS determination and notification process

## 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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- Will continue to communicate the expectations and potential impact of PSPS events with critical infrastructure providers and others
- Liberty CalPeco has assigned a Project Manager the responsibility of CRC development.
  - Working to determine site selection
  - Working on site set up and multiple access routes
  - Working on site staffing approach
  - Awaiting additional CPUC guidance on CRCs via Phase 2 Decision
  - Will comply with Cal OES guidelines for evacuation centers/CRCs during public health stay at home orders
  - Examining options for setting up “outside CRCs”
  - Developing plans for “Mobile CRCs” within OES Guidelines.

## 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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Liberty CalPeco has worked to further identify AFN populations and encourages customers to register with special assistance/notification needs. The following channels will assist in the buildout:

- Community Meetings – host community meetings with Public Safety Partners and AFN advocacy groups.
- Toolkit – distribute PSPS educational pamphlets, flyers and checklists in accessible formats.
- Website – publish and maintain PSPS web copy outlining Liberty’s determination and notification process and detailing ways for customers to prepare.
- Social Media – post content to Facebook and Twitter notifying customers of Liberty’s PSPS determination and notification process.
- Customer Email – distribute an email notifying customers of Liberty’s PSPS determination and notification process.
- Bill Insert/Mail – distribute a bill insert/mailer notifying customers of Liberty’s PSPS determination and notification process.

## 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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### Progress to enhance communication systems

- Completed communications templates and scripts
- Created Everbridge templates and emphasis on importance of confirmation of receipt from customer
- Developed process to communicate with Public Safety Partners via Everbridge
- Updated Green Cross Customer information and corrected errors (phone numbers, email, etc.).
- Evaluated process for communicating with Green Cross Customers (Positive contact)

## 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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### Communications with agencies

- After the 2019 near miss, CalOES shared communications guidance which CalPeco will use to notify State agencies
  - PSPS Standard Operating Guide
  - CalOES PSPS Form for reporting
  - CalOES PSPS Notification Form Instructions
- PSPS GIS outage information will be shared through a Cal OES secure site
- CalPeco can share the outage information with other State agencies that CalOES does not distribute to through its notification network

# 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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## Additional Staffing

- Liberty has added new positions
  - Manager, Emergency Services
  - Fire Protection Specialist
- Incident Command Structure roles/responsibilities have been updated to account for needs during a PSPS event
- Team members are being cross trained and back-up roles have been identified

# 2020 Program Update (Continued)

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## COVID-19 Considerations

- Protocols are being implemented to minimize workforce exposure to Covid-19
- Employees with the ability to work remotely are doing so
- Offices are closed to employees with remote work capabilities
- Field crew team members are dedicated to their team and are not allowed to move from one team to another
- Social distancing guidelines are established and being followed
- Managers are tracking (daily) and reporting employees work status (remote, field, etc.)