

customer Pipeline



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PREPARING WATER SYSTEMS FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

Does fall really mean summer? In the Bay Area, it sure does. The autumn months are hot and dry in our part of the world, and that means wildfire season. To avoid igniting a blaze, PG&E may need to shut down power to large parts of California during periods of high fire danger — events known as Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

But don't worry about your water and wastewater services. Though EBMUD relies on power to move, treat and discharge water in our vast system, we are already prepared to keep your water flowing — just like we did during last year's power shutdowns.

In fact, not one EBMUD customer lost water or wastewater service during Northern California's first PSPS events in 2019. This year, we have again rented dozens of generators to keep critical operations running, including neighborhood pumping plants that play a vital role in delivering you water every day.

After EBMUD treats and tests your drinking water, pumping plants move that water to reservoirs and tanks in high elevation areas, where it's stored until you turn on your tap. When fire danger is high and Red Flag Warnings are issued, EBMUD fills those reservoirs and tanks so they are at maximum capacity for customers and firefighters.

In addition, EBMUD's wastewater facilities have permanent emergency generators ready to be called into action with adequate advanced notice from PG&E. This ensures we can treat and safely discharge wastewater during a planned PSPS, to protect public health and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem.

It's no small feat to plan for a widespread electrical outage, especially for a utility dedicated to providing services around the clock every day of the year to 1.4 million water customers and 685,000 wastewater customers. Fear not — EBMUD has you covered.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If a PSPS is announced in your area, EBMUD asks that you temporarily stop watering your landscape and minimize overall water use to ensure water supplies are available for your neighborhood. Please check our website for updates before, during and after a PSPS at ebmud.com/pssp.

BE PREPARED AT HOME

Earthquakes, storms and other unplanned incidents have the potential to knock out service. Every Bay Area resident should have an emergency water supply at home. We recommend two gallons per person per day for up to seven days (don't forget pets). To learn more about available water storage options, visit ebmud.com/waterstorage.

Managing Vegetation All Year Round

In addition to preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, EBMUD works throughout the year to reduce and slow the spread of wildfires and protect water quality.

EBMUD carefully manages 57,000 acres of open space here in the East Bay and in the Sierra Nevada foothills. We build fuel breaks, remove highly flammable vegetation and partner with local fire departments to conduct controlled burns. Our rangers and maintenance staff also manage vegetation near EBMUD facilities and rights-of-way using a variety of tools, from tractors and chippers to grazing goats. The schedule for that work can be found at ebmud.com/about-us/vegetation-management.

There is also plenty you can do to help protect yourself and your community from fire danger. Clear weeds, thin trees and trim bushes to create defensible space around your home. Remove dead plants, dry leaves and pine needles from your yard and gutters. These and other firescaping measures are essential, and in many places required by fire codes and ordinances. Check with your local fire district for details where you live.

EBMUD offers a 15-page guide for residents and landscape professionals in wildfire-prone areas in the East Bay hills and beyond. To order your free copy of *Firescape: Landscaping to Reduce Fire Hazard*, visit ebmud.com/firescape.

Update your contact information on ebmud.com so we can reach you in an emergency.

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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.

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