

# Safety



# Bulletin

October 27, 2019

## Information Regarding Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff Update #2

UCSF Emergency Management teams continue to closely monitor the unfolding situation related to the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County, as well as grass fires near the Carquinez Bridge in Vallejo and Crocket, and PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) that has impacted much of the Bay Area.

This update includes the following guidance for the UCSF community:

- 1. Impacted Employees and Learners**
- 2. UCSF Operations and Air Quality**
- 3. PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs**
- 4. Additional Resources for UCSF Employees and Learners**

### **1. Impacted Employees and Learners**

UCSF is aware of approximately 345 faculty and staff who live in and around the evacuation areas and the Kincade fire that has grown to more than 30,000 acres and is only 10 percent contained. Meanwhile, UCSF is watching the newly emerging fires in the East Bay.

The safety and security of the UCSF community is a top priority and the University understands that, under these challenging circumstances, employees and students may not be able to come to UCSF during these hazardous conditions. Guidelines for employees impacted by the wildfires is posted on the Human Resource website.

<https://hr.ucsf.edu/hr.php?&A=5901&org=c> Students and trainees are asked to please be in touch with their faculty advisor, program director, or program administrator if they have questions.

### **2. UCSF Operations and Air Quality**

As of today, UCSF operations in San Francisco and Oakland are not impacted by smoke or the PSPS. Like other hospitals in the region, however, UCSF Health is accommodating additional patients who have been transferred from hospitals that were evacuated due to the fires. UCSF Health has admitted three patients to UCSF Medical Center at Parnassus Heights campus and is awaiting the transfer of eight other patients. In response, UCSF Health has increased its clinical staff to care for more patients and to ensure appropriate staffing levels at UCSF hospitals in San

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**Chief of Police**

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Francisco and Oakland to cover for those employees who are unable to come to work.

Since the Kincadee fire continues to grow amid strong wind conditions and full containment is not projected until November 7, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) expects that the region's air quality will continue to fluctuate, with some areas reaching the "orange" level, indicating that the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups. These groups include people who have heart or lung disease, such as asthma or COPD, older adults and children, all of whom should reduce prolonged to outdoor air or heavy exertion.

Given the different and fluctuating weather and wind conditions seen in region, UCSF is monitoring outdoor air quality as reported by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) AirNow website at <https://airnow.gov/>. The EPA website includes a search box to check the air quality of specific zip codes, in addition to maps identifying the air quality index using a color-coded system and details on what pollutants are present and who might be at risk.

### **3. PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs**

UCSF also is closely monitoring plans for PG&E's PSPS, which are impacting many Bay Area counties. It is estimated that more than 10,000 UCSF employees and students are without power at this time. UCSF campus sites in San Francisco and Oakland are not expected to be affected by PSPS outages today or this coming week.

Campus and UCSF Health facilities teams are surveying campuses for fallen debris caused by very strong winds. At this time, no serious issues have been reported, though caution should be taken when walking and driving around campus locations given falling debris as the winds persist. For those commuting to UCSF from areas without power, please take care crossing intersections where traffic lights are not functioning and treat them as stop signs.

Members of the UCSF community are encouraged to prepare for recurring PG&E power outages. Please check PG&E's PSPS website for details about what to do before and during power outages: [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/outage-readiness.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/outage-readiness.page)

### **4. Additional Resources for UCSF Employees and Learners**

UCSF employees and learners who are sensitive to smoke or whose family members may be impacted by closures or power outages, should consult with their manager or advisors about their unique situation to request special accommodations.

More resources can be found on the following websites:

- PG&E map of outages: [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-)

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[preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/pssp-event-maps.page](https://www.ucsf.edu/preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/pssp-event-maps.page)

- Google map of outages:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=11OZXAhqf-NnZHzCSz-4puYSjangbG4e&ll=37.78961840853223%2C-122.02310933614916&z=10>
- PG&E resource centers: <https://abc7news.com/society/list-bay-area-resource-centers-opened-for-those-impacted-by-pg-e-shutoff/5604832/>

Any concerns over the weekend can be directed to UCSF PD by calling (415) 476-1414 and request the HSEM Duty Officer.

**Help fight crime by reporting suspicious persons and/or suspicious activity to UCSF PD immediately—race, gender, and religious affiliation are NOT considered suspicious. For emergency or in-progress events, dial 9-911 when using on-campus land lines and 415.476-6911 when using cell phones. For non-emergency calls, please dial 415.476-1414.**

19-10-11 CP/mdh



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