

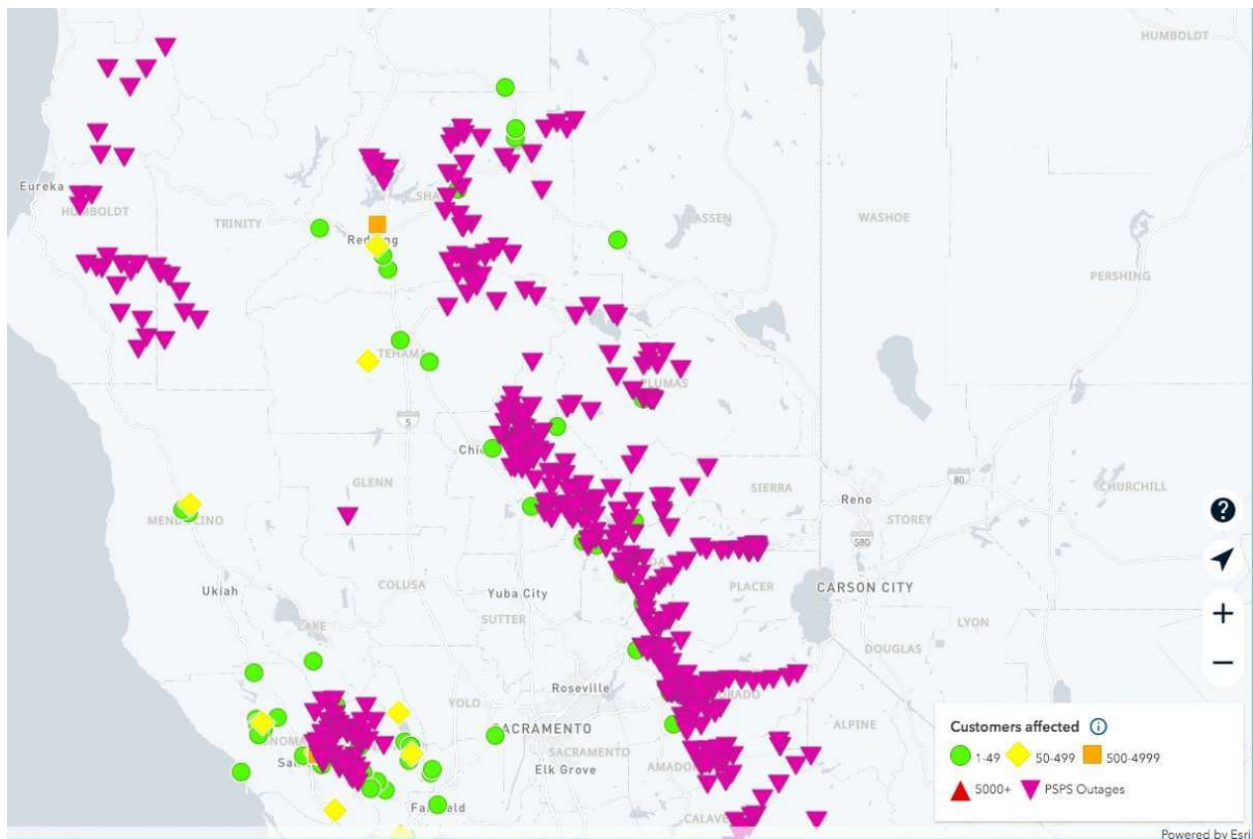
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Maps: Here's where PG&E has shut off power in California

Amy Graff, SFGATE

Sep. 8, 2020 Updated: Sep. 8, 2020 8:35 a.m.

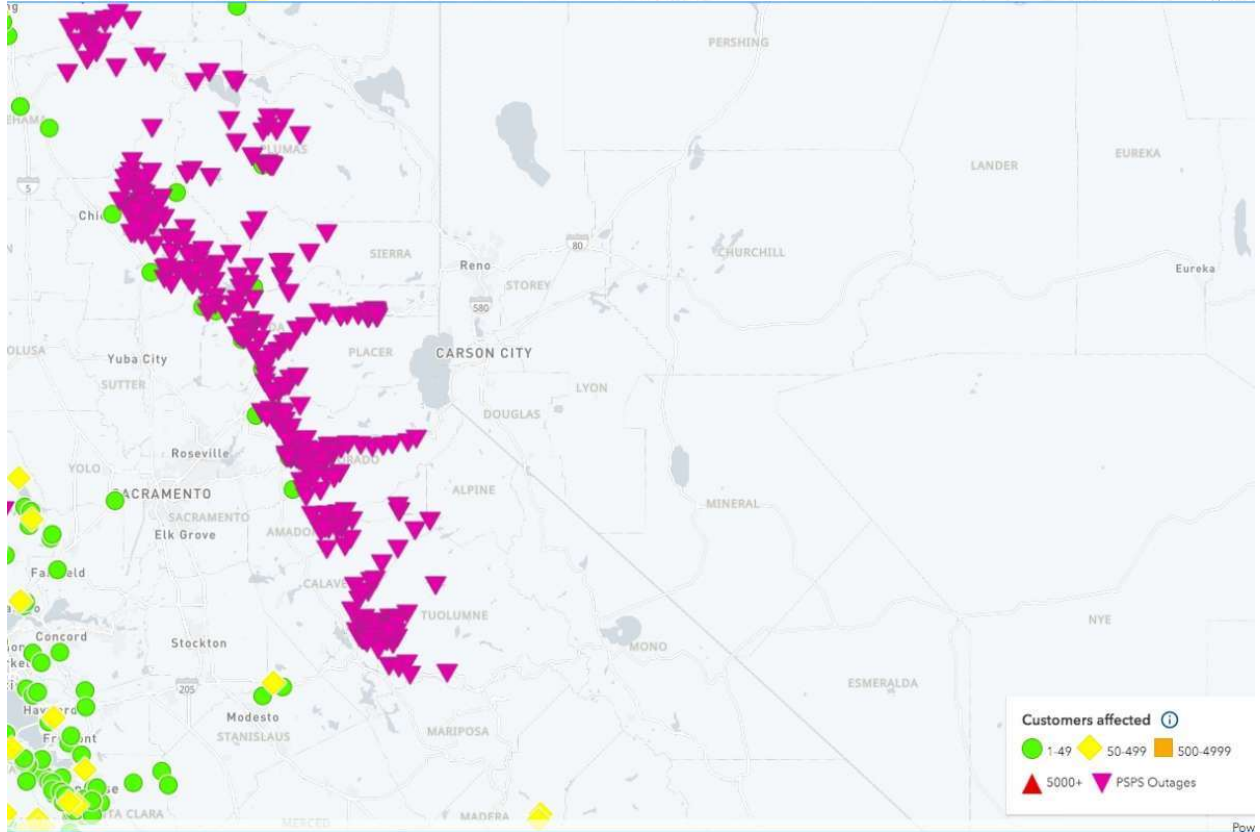
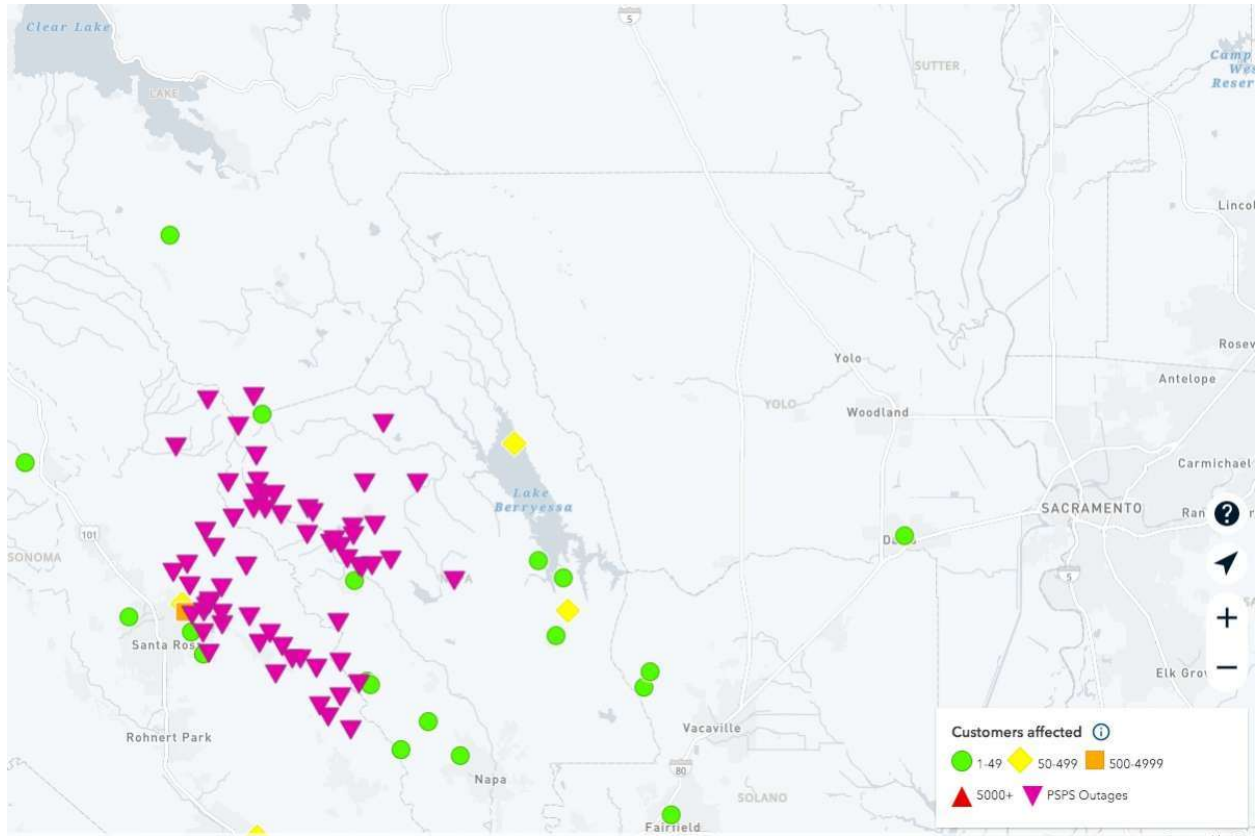
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A PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff event is affecting approximately 172,000 customers in 22 counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne and Yuba.

PG&E



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Amid extreme wildfire conditions, Pacific Gas and Electric has deliberately cut off power to some 172,000 California customers mainly in the Sierra foothills, northern Sierra range and pockets of the North Bay. That's more than 500,000 people in the dark if you assume an average of three residents per household.

The Public Safety Power Shutoff is impacting customers in 22 counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne and Yuba.

Find an interactive map showing where shutoffs are in effect at PG&E.com. You can also type in your address, to find out if your home is impacted.

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Some residents in these counties lost power between 9 p.m. evening and 6 a.m. Tuesday; a shutoff is also expected in Kern County at approximately 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The blackout comes as hot, desiccating offshore winds developed overnight at the tail end of a heat wave that sent inland temperatures soaring to about 110 in the hottest locations. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for the North Bay Mountains and East Bay Hills for 10 p.m. Monday through 8 a.m. Wednesday. The warning is in effect in the Santa Cruz Mountains 10 a.m. Tuesday through 8 a.m. Wednesday.

As of Tuesday morning, gusts of 40-50 mph had been reported in the East and North Bay hills and winds were blowing at 28 mph at Travis Air Force Base, according to the National Weather Services

Northern California has seen well below-average rainfall in 2020 and the concern is the winds can damage equipment and spark wildfires that spread quickly in a dry landscape.

"In 2020, we are aiming to cut restoration times in half over 2019 performance, so that we restore power to a majority of customers within 12 daylight hours after severe weather has passed," PG&E said in a statement on its website.

California's largest utility company has said power shutoffs in 2020 will impact fewer customers and be shorter in duration compared to last year's events when some customers were in the dark for days.

Once the weather subsides, PG&E crews will begin patrolling power lines, repairing damaged equipment and restoring customers. The goal is to restore power within 12 hours after the wind event ends.

Some of the most destructive blazes in the state in recent years were started by PG&E power lines. Winds can knock down live wires and power poles or drive trees and other vegetation into contact with them.

To receive outage alerts via email or text, visit the PG&E website.

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