

Transcript

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Hi, everybody. Scott Strenfel here. I'm the chief meteorologist for this PSPS activation. We activated the EOC this week to monitor a very strong wind event. In fact, it was the strongest wind event we were expecting in the last four years from a Northeast perspective to impact our service territory, we saw widespread red flag warnings.

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High risk indicators from external agencies and the event came in as predicted. For example, some of our machine learning modeling that we do on all of our weather stations.

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Suggested we could see a peak wind gust of 85 mph at the top of Mount Saint Helena. Gusts 60 mph and 70 across the North Bay area, as well as the East Bay and the models handled this event pretty well. In fact, we saw a peaked wind gusts during this event to 88 mph, so we activated PSPS.

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Impacting a little over 20,000 customers.

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Across 17 counties, most of those in the North Bay, the East Bay, Kern County, some in Butte County and after we started to issue the all clear and patrol the lines, we actually found some instances of damages and hazards. And So what we can do with those is.

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Attempt to figure out what could have happened if we kept the lines energized, and so I can run some fire simulation software. So let me give you a sneak peek at.

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So here's some of the wind gusts that we saw on Wednesday. So peak wind gusts 72 and some of the North Bay Mount Hood and in the North Bay we also saw gusts 5045 just north of Sonoma and we actually found some damages in these areas and so we could take those damages and put them in a fire simulation.

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Software to estimate what could have happened if this actually caused an ignition.

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And so if we ran this ignition for 24 hours and a major caveat here is that we don't know for sure if this ignition would have happened and the fires in this simulation are unsuppressed. But it gives us

the indication that with the north winds and ignition starting in this location where we found that we had a tree.

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Through a service drop could have spread the fire S towards the community of Sonoma.

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Now this fire simulation indicates that we could have had 3300 or more buildings impacted. You have to take that with a grain of salt, but it gives us some indication of the danger that we have when we're executing some of these very important safety measures to protect our communities.

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Yeah. So I hope this gave you a little bit of insight into why we de energize during strong and dry wind events to protect our communities.

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You know we at PG&E understand that it's a significant hardship to go without power for multiple hours on end, but you know, know that we are seeing these conditions and we're seeing the potential for large and catastrophic fires. So you know we will take these measures to to de energize the lines for public safety as a measure of last resort.

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So thank you.