Mt. Diablo Unified School District

October 10, 2019 - Update

PG&E’s “Public Safety Power Shutoff” (PSPS)

As of 8:00 am, Thursday, October 10, 2019, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District has one school without power due to the “Public Safety Power Shutoff” (PSPS). Pleasant Hill Elementary School is open, and plans to be in session, though is without power. The updates from PG&E have continued to come in slowly, and it is our understanding that there could be additional schools that could lose power later today, and we are continuing to press for more specific information from PG&E.

At the present time we are planning to have all schools open on Thursday, October 10, 2019. We believe that it is important to keep our schools open for the safety and security of the children.

We will continue to monitor the PG&E website and seek clarification directly from PG&E. We will provide updates as we receive them based on that information. The list of schools that are now and potentially impacted by the “PSPS” will be updated as best we can through the day. We will continue to update this data as we receive additional information from PG&E.

The District will continue to monitor the impacts from the “PSPS” and will seek to provide additional communication to the community at large regarding any additional schools with power outages, or any need to formally close schools as a result of the “PSPS.”

Please take great care during this time, and please refer to our original press release for additional information that provides “Helpful Tips and Additional Information.”

Updated School Information:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rsloIUsxFBZVi3QX_sqUjFo0WDshlSkVGxmlJuaAc_E/edit#gid=0

Robert A. Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Original Press Release Below:

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has indicated it will pre-emptively cut power this week in seven of the nine Bay Area counties it serves to prevent power lines from sparking wildfires during the extreme dry and windy weather the National Weather Service (NWS) has forecasted for the next several days. This could impact our schools and school operations, families, and employees.

On October 7th, 2019, at about 1:30 PM, PG&E notified certain customers who live in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District boundaries that a Public Safety Power Shutoff may occur in 36 to 48 hours. We are working with the information being provided by PG&E, and local authorities in our preparation for potential shut downs.

The District is working with the local officials, PG&E, and staying in communication with our school leaders to monitor the situation and prepare to take action if necessary. As of this time, all District schools will remain open. Should we be advised of any prolonged power outages, we will take steps to advise all stakeholders.

Click here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rsloIUxsFBZVi3QX_sqUIFo0WDshISkVGxmJuaAc_E/edit#gid=0 for a power shutoff status list of all Mt. Diablo Unified School Sites.

The District will continue to monitor the events, and will provide updated information to the community should there be any need to close schools, or modify school schedules. We believe that keeping schools open provides a safe place for students to be and will strive to do so with the limited information we have received from PG&E on the specifics of any actual shut downs that impact our facilities. Up to date information can also be found on our website at and our Social Media Platforms including Facebook, and Twitter.

More information will be shared as it comes available.

Robert A. Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Helpful Tips & Additional Information

These “Public Safety Power Shutoff” events precede a warning of an actual planned outage. PG&E has said it would provide 24 to 48 hours’ notice of a power cut – and this will help us in planning resulting school closures. PG&E must consider a variety of factors before issuing a shut-off, including the status of red-flag fire danger warnings and expected wind and humidity levels. The challenge with these outages is the potential duration for the restoration of services – anywhere from several hours to several days, depending on circumstances. PG&E’s website provides resources for preparing for a shutoff.

PG&E has provided the following information for households to consider to prepare for potential shutdown:

- **Confirm or update your contact information with PG&E.** We'll send notifications to the contacts we have on file in advance of a shutoff, when possible.
- Create a safety plan for all members of your family, including pets. A Public Safety Power Shutoff can happen at any time of day or night, due to changing weather conditions.
- **Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Include enough water and nonperishable food to last your household one week. Be sure to refresh your kit once a year.
- Determine if your landline will work during an outage. Keep a mobile phone as backup.
- Keep mobile phones and other devices charged.
- If you have a generator, **make sure it’s ready to operate safely.**
- Have flashlights available for your household. Avoid using candles.
- Have a battery-powered or crank radio.
- Stock up on the right batteries for items you rely on. Include two extra sets in various sizes.
- Keep cash on hand and a full tank of gas. ATMs and gas stations may not be available during an outage.
- Learn how to manually open your garage or any other door that operates with electricity.
- Talk with your building manager if you live or work in a building that has elevators or electronic key card access to understand how they will deal with a possible multi-day outage.