

PG&E Stage Alert

Stage 1

A Stage 1 emergency is declared when the ISO determines there will be an operating reserve shortfall within the next two hours. It is less severe than a stage 2 or stage 3 emergency. Stage 1 does not require interruption of service to customers.

Stage 2

A Stage 2 emergency is declared anytime there will be a serious operating reserve shortfall (less than 5%) within the next two hours. At this stage, interruption of service to some or all of selected customers is required. Many customers have agreed to be interrupted in case of a stage 2 emergency. These customers receive a reduced rate for their electrical service as compensation for their agreement to be curtailed.

Stage 3

A Stage 3 emergency is declared anytime there will be a critical operating reserve shortfall (less than 1 ½%) within the next two hours. Stage 3 is the most severe emergency and indicates that, without significant ISO intervention, the electrical system is in danger of imminent collapse. Involuntary curtailment of service to consumers (i.e. "rolling blackout") is required to maintain operating reserve above 1 ½%.