

Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce
Advocacy Council Meeting
September 17, 2019

Are you signed up for Alert Solano?

Alert Solano is Solano County's Regional Emergency Notification System, and if you live, work, or travel frequently within the county, it is an essential tool to have. It enables agencies within the county to provide you on any device with critical information in a variety of situations, including severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, evacuations and natural disasters.

There is a direct link to sign up at www.solanocounty.com and it takes just moments. And in the event of an emergency, it can save lives, said Don Ryan the Solano County Office of Emergency Services Manager.

Ryan was the guest speaker at the chamber's Sept. 17 Advocacy Council meeting.

His presentation focused on both PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff and planning for emergencies in Solano County.

PG&E is implementing precautionary measures to help reduce the risk of wildfires and may need to turn off power during extreme weather or fire conditions. A shutoff can occur depending on local fire danger conditions, such as a Red Flag Warning, high wind gusts, low humidity, and dry vegetation. In most cases, PG&E expects to be able to restore power within 24 to 48 hours after extreme weather has passed. However, depending on weather conditions or if any repairs are needed, outages could last multiple days – so it's important Ryan said, that people have an emergency plan in place.

Fortunately, most of Solano County is considered Tier 1, low fire danger, with the exception of areas in the Vaca Hills with high brush and low population that is Tier 2. There are many more Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas in nearby Napa County.

Even though Solano County has a low probability of a power shutoff, it does not mean one nearby will not impact the region.

"If one county gets shut off, especially for multiple days, they will come to us," Ryan said. "Just because you have power doesn't mean you won't be in a crisis. Other people's emergencies become your own. They need hotels, medications, gas, food, water."

By: Brianna Boyd

Many residents and businesses in Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas have generators in case of power shutoff, but if a generator runs for more than 100 hours a year, residents may be fined by local air quality districts. A PG&E shutoff could easily last 24 to 48 hours, Ryan explained, because workers have to inspect the equipment before it can be turned back on.

"Personal preparedness is huge here," Ryan said.

Business owners and employees, for example, have to keep a lot of factors in mind, especially if they will be operating in a power outage. Are there perishables in the refrigerator? Are office doors operated through door badges? Can those doors be manually opened with keys? Is there a printed contact list for employees? Is there cash on hand if the credit card system goes down? What happens if Internet is lost?

There are many tips for both businesses and residents on the Alert Solano page.

"I always make sure my family is ready so I can go to work," Ryan said.