

# PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS: IRWD IS PREPARED



High winds, low humidity and dry vegetation pose a real and growing threat of wildfires in California, particularly in late summer and fall.

Electric utilities such as Southern California Edison will sometimes call a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and turn off power in high-risk areas to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire starting from power lines and related equipment.

However, you should see no disruption in your water service. Irvine Ranch Water District is prepared to continue operating. Here's how.

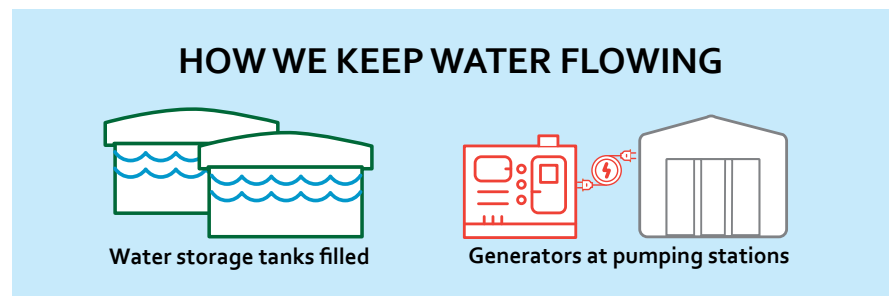
**Backup generators:** We have permanent generators at critical IRWD facilities. And portable generators can be moved quickly to where they are needed. These generators help ensure we have power to keep water and sewer systems operating. This is important in all areas we serve, but critical in canyon and backcountry areas — where firefighters need water to do their job.

**Monitoring:** Our staff watches local weather patterns and conditions that heighten fire risk — such as low relative humidity, strong winds, dry vegetation and other fuel, and the possibility of dry lightning strikes. We regularly inspect our facilities.

**Action planning:** During high-risk situations, IRWD takes action. This includes topping off water storage tanks (which use gravity to deliver water to homes and businesses), mobilizing equipment and supplies to where they may be needed, and working with other agencies to evaluate conditions and plan a coordinated response.

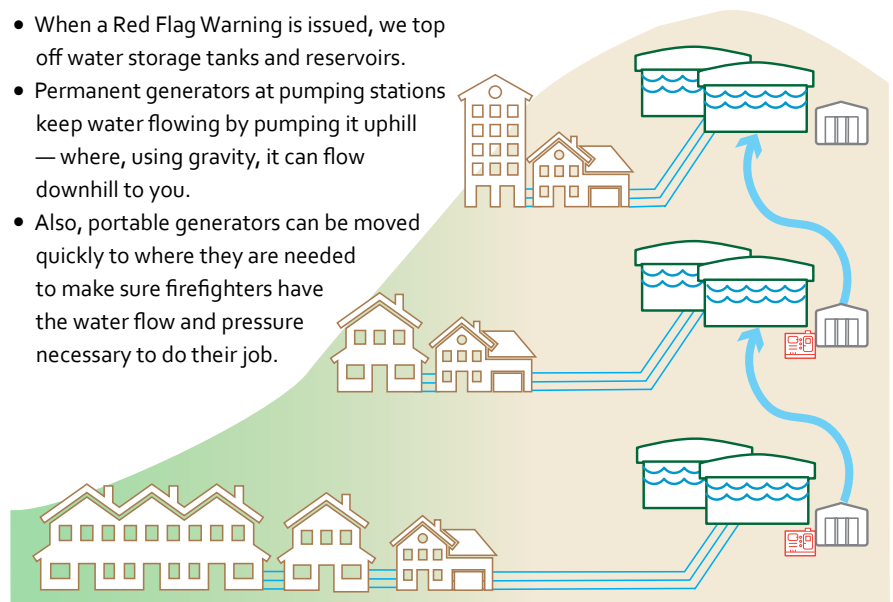
**Communication:** We maintain steady communication with other agencies and first-responders to make sure hazardous conditions are addressed before problems strike.

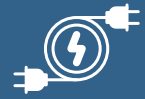
**Alternative power:** Several facilities have alternative sources such as solar to supplement power needs.



#### What IRWD does to prepare and respond:

- When a Red Flag Warning is issued, we top off water storage tanks and reservoirs.
- Permanent generators at pumping stations keep water flowing by pumping it uphill — where, using gravity, it can flow downhill to you.
- Also, portable generators can be moved quickly to where they are needed to make sure firefighters have the water flow and pressure necessary to do their job.





## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Q: How fast can IRWD respond to an emergency?

**A: Quickly.** IRWD monitors weather to proactively prepare for threats before they become emergencies. We can respond at a moment's notice. In the case of a Public Safety Power Shutoff, Southern California Edison typically issues a two-day notice and maintains communication with IRWD through a designated liaison. When a PSPS is called without notice, IRWD's permanent generator stations kick on automatically as soon as power is lost. Employees are trained to respond to a variety of emergency scenarios and to coordinate with regional agencies.



### Q: How can I prepare myself and my family for a PSPS?

**A: Plan ahead.** If you live in a high-fire-risk area (typically a neighborhood bordering a large open space), take these steps:

- Keep an emergency supply of water, nonperishable food, and other items such as a cooler and ice on hand at all times. See tips at [ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit).
- Install surge protectors to safeguard electronic equipment.
- Learn how to manually open automatic garage doors and gates.
- Open your refrigerator door only when necessary. A closed refrigerator can keep food cold for several hours.
- Keep your car's gas tank at least half full so you can make it to a gas station outside of your PSPS area.

### Q: What should I do after a PSPS?

**A: Check your irrigation controller.** Reset its schedule if necessary. After an interruption in electrical power your controller may revert to its factory default setting, which will run your sprinklers 10 minutes a day, seven days a week. That leads to a high water bill.

### Q: How can I find out if I live in a high-fire-risk area?

**A: Search** the California Public Utilities Commission's map at [ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap](https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap)

### Q: How can I stay informed in an emergency?

**A. Get notified.** Sign up for CodeRED at [IRWD.com/emergency-codered](https://www.irwd.com/emergency-codered) for instructions and updates. Follow IRWD on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

