

## **San Joaquin County in the Middle of Heat Wave** *Residents Urged to Take Precautions and Conserve Energy*

Stockton, Calif. – The Sacramento National Weather Service issued an Excessive Heat Warning lasting through Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup> for numerous Valley Counties including San Joaquin. As we continue to face widespread heat, California Independent Service Operator (California ISO) has issued a Flex Alert through Wednesday, urging customers to reduce energy consumption between 3pm-10pm each day.

In order to avoid electricity shortages, California ISO is asking businesses and residents to reduce energy usage in order to prevent service interruptions. It is especially important to limit energy usage from 3 pm to 10 pm, especially air conditioning, electric car charging and other energy intensive technology. They recommend you to over cool your home overnight and in the morning in order to stay cool all day.

San Joaquin County OES has been in in contact with the California Office of Emergency Services and Pacific Gas and Electric to monitor the current challenges with the power grid due to high electricity use driven by this unprecedented heat wave and shifting patterns of energy usage thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Individuals and Business Can Take Action at Home to Save Energy**

ISO highlights three simple actions individuals and businesses can take to reduce energy consumption:

- Set your thermostat to 78° or higher between 3 and 10 P.M.
- Refrain from using major appliances between 3 and 10 P.M.
- Turn off unnecessary lights and appliances

### **Additional Steps and Guidance:**

- Adjust Your Thermostat
  - During peak hours or when you are not home, remember to set your thermostat at 78° or higher. Setting your air conditioner 5° higher can save up to 20 percent on cooling costs.
  - Pre-cool your home by running air conditioning at 72 degrees in the early part of the day (when it is more efficient) then turn your system to 78 or higher during the hottest part of the day when demand is the highest.
  - Use smart or programmable features to help maintain energy savings when you are not home.
- Close Windows and Doors
  - Keep windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled or heated air.
  - On summer nights, open windows to let cooler air in when safe. In the morning before the day starts to heat up, close windows and blinds to keep warm air out.

- Tilt blinds up and close drapes and shades on windows that receive direct sunlight.
- Smart Energy Use
  - Turn off unnecessary lighting and use task or desktop lamps with LEDs instead of overhead lights.
  - Enable "power management" on all computers and turn off when not in use.
  - Unplug phone chargers, power strips (those without a switch) and other equipment when not in use. Taken together, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.
- Access and Functional Needs
  - Check in on neighbors, friends, and family who may be at risk.
  - Charge medical devices in off hours and have a backup plan if the power goes out.
  - In addition to traditional community support channels, individuals with access and functional needs should reach out to local government for assistance, such as 2-1-1.
  - Contact your local utilities company if you are dependent on power for assistive devices.
- Major Appliance Use
  - Postpone using major appliances like the oven, dishwasher, clothes washer, and dryer until cooler times of the day to avoid heating up your home.
  - Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full. Wait until after 9 p.m. to use these and other major appliances.
  - When possible, wash clothes in cold water. About 90 percent of the energy used in a clothes washer goes to water heating.
- Clean or Replace Your Filters
  - A dirty filter forces your air conditioner and furnace to work harder, wasting money, using more energy or natural gas.
- Adjust Your Water Heater
  - Turn your water heater down to 120° or the "normal" setting. Water heating accounts for about 13 percent of home energy costs.
- Conservation Programs
  - Consider participating in your utility's demand response program. These voluntary programs are short, temporary measures to reduce energy consumption when power supplies are critically low and a Flex Alert has been issued. Contact your local electric utility to learn about your utility's program and incentives they may offer to participate

More information and updates as the week progresses can be found at [SJReady.org](http://SJReady.org) or any of our social media platforms.

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