



# Hood River County Health Department, Environmental Health Office

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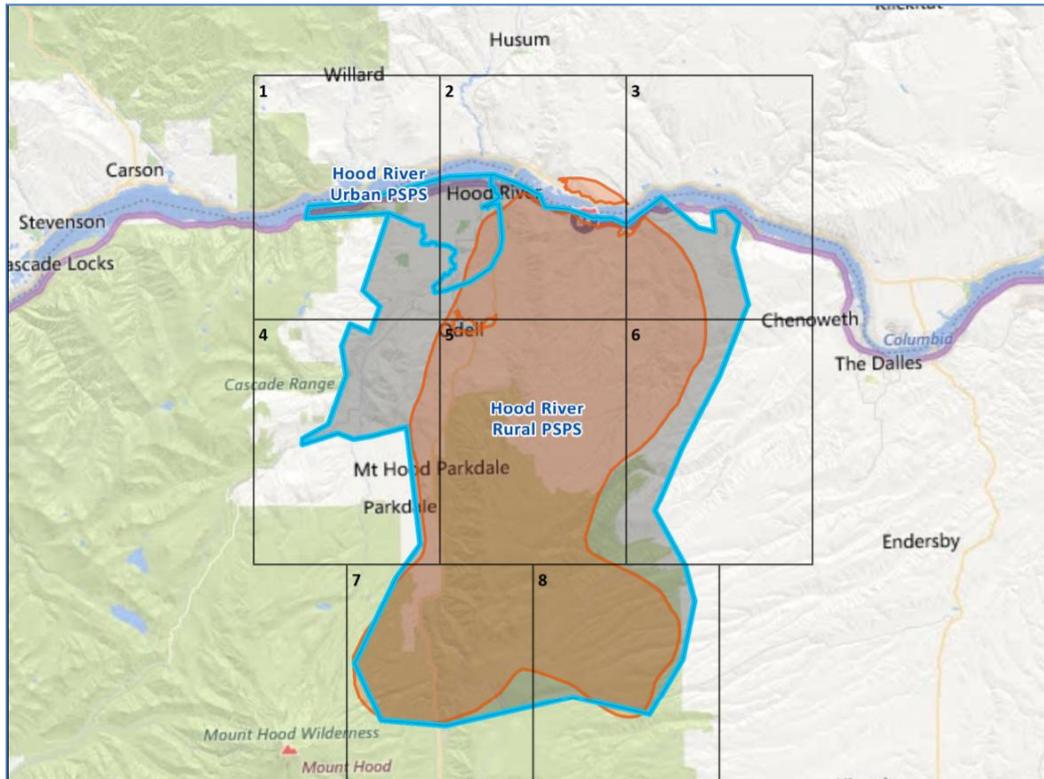
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Wednesday, July 10, 2019

To All Licensed Facilities in Hood River County:

In early July, 2019, Pacific Power implemented a new plan for preventing wildfires: 'Public Safety Power Shutoffs'. These intentional and potentially prolonged power outages may occur in the area outlined below:



From: [https://www.pacificpower.net/content/dam/pacific\\_power/doc/Education\\_Safety/Wildfire\\_Safety/Hood\\_River\\_PDZ\\_Maps\\_All.pdf](https://www.pacificpower.net/content/dam/pacific_power/doc/Education_Safety/Wildfire_Safety/Hood_River_PDZ_Maps_All.pdf)  
Accessed on 7/9/19.

More information regarding Pacific Power's program may be viewed online at: <https://www.pacificpower.net/ed/hws/ws/psps.html>  
They may be reached directly at: 866-870-3419

'Public Safety Power Shutoffs' may occur with little warning and last for several days. It is currently unknown when these outages may occur; our only indication from Pacific Power is that they will occur during instances of significant wildfire danger (*hot, dry, and windy days*).

Preparing your business for a prolonged power outage is important in order to protect the public's health and you and your employees' safety. Hood River County frequently experiences power outages, particularly during winter storms. Additionally, other natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and (*actual*) wildfires may disrupt power for long periods of time. For these reasons, Hood River County Health Department is clarifying licensed facility operator responsibilities during a prolonged power outage.

**Prolonged Power Outage** means: A disruption in electrical power/service that exceeds 4 hours, without a definitive timeline for when electricity will be restored. Prolonged power outages may last: hours, days, months, or even years depending on the severity of the incident/event.

## Restaurants and other Food Establishments:

Food establishments may **not** operate during prolonged power outages. Within 4 hours of losing power, all food establishments shall cease operating and serving food to the public. Even if a food establishment has a generator, without

formal written approval from our office (*in advance*), no food establishment may operate during a prolonged power outage. Actions may be taken to protect inventories; however, any food exposed to temperature abuse shall be discarded.

The reason for this prohibition is that without adequate access to electricity, nearly all food establishments fail to meet the minimum operational requirements of the Oregon Food Code. Critical factors for consideration include (*but are not limited to*): (1) mechanical refrigeration, (2) mechanical ventilation, (3) hot & cold running water, (4) sewage treatment, (5) adequate lighting, etc.

### Swimming Pools & Spas:

Swimming pools and spas must close **immediately** once power is lost. Oregon State Rules require that pool/spa circulatory, filtration, and disinfection systems run continuously (*even when the facility is closed*). Without functioning systems, all public pools and spas must close during prolonged power outages in order to protect the public's health.

### Organizational Camps (*Summer Camps*):

Organizational camp facilities shall cease regular operations within 4 hours of a prolonged power outage and then implement evacuation plans. Without access to reliable electricity, many of the safety and sanitation requirements of Oregon State Rules cannot be met. This is particularly true for facilities with onsite-kitchens, onsite drinking- and waste-water treatment facilities and other life-safety elements. The objective is to protect and ensure the safety of children.

### Travelers' Accommodations (Hotel/Motels), Recreation Campgrounds, & Bed & Breakfasts:

Tourist facilities with food establishment services (*such as bed & breakfasts*) may **not** prepare and/or serve food during a prolonged power outage; however, sleeping and common areas of facilities may remain available if they are **safe** to occupy. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Hood River County Health Department.

Certain facilities will not be safe for the public to occupy due to a disruption in ventilation, fire suppression, drinking water, and/or wastewater treatment. Otherwise, it will likely be beneficial for the health and safety of the travelling public to provide safe places until they are able to evacuate or the power is restored.

Any facility that operates during a prolonged power outage must be prepared to demonstrate that they are operating safely and disclose their operational plans upon request.

### Plan Review Procedure:

If a licensed establishment wishes to operate during prolonged power outages, they may submit operational plans for formal review (*plan review*) for our consideration in advance of a power outage. A fee will be charged for this service. A submitted plan must demonstrate that **all** Oregon State Rule requirements will be met. No plan reviews will occur during a prolonged power outage.

### Compliance and Enforcement:

Failure to cease operating in accordance with these policies, and/or allow unsafe and unsanitary conditions to persist will result in formal enforcement actions and civil penalties. Citations and significant fines will be issued to any facility observed operating, during a prolonged power outage, without written approval by Hood River County Health Department.

Anyone with questions may contact Hood River County Health Department, Environmental Health office at: 541-387-6885. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 7/10/19

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Digital Signature - Ian Stromquist, REHS

Date: 7/10/19

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