



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2023

PIN 23-13-CCLD  
(Supersedes [PIN 21-07 -CCLD](#))

**TO: ALL COMMUNITY CARE LICENSED PROVIDERS**

**Original signed by Kevin Gaines**  
FROM: KEVIN GAINES  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **PREPARATION FOR EXTREME HEAT, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS, AND WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 23-13-CCLD reminds providers about the need to prepare for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs (PSPS), and wildfire emergencies. It also provides information on the Everbridge Mass Notification System and how it will be used to notify providers of disasters, such as fires and PSPS. This PIN supersedes [PIN 21-07-CCLD](#).

***Adult and Senior Care Licensees: Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where all persons in care, facility staff, families, and representatives of persons in care in the facility can easily access it and distribute the PIN to persons in care and/or, if applicable, their representatives***

Living in California brings the potential of extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs (PSPS), and wildfire emergencies. Licensed community care providers have an added responsibility to ensure the health and safety of persons in care should any of these events occur. The following information is to help providers prepare for potential events of extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs, or wildfire emergencies.

This PIN provides information about emergency plan updates, reporting requirements, and assistance from the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). In addition, this PIN explains how the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will use the

Everbridge Mass Notification System to notify providers, to the best of its ability, in advance of, or during, such events.

### **Heat Preparedness**

California weather can bring high temperatures, posing a substantial risk to vulnerable populations that include children, the elderly, and those with disabilities or chronic diseases. Providers should monitor weather predictions and reports for forecasts of, and fluctuations in, extreme temperatures and take extra precautions to ensure persons in care are protected from adverse conditions that may cause heat-related illness. Some warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illness include, but are not limited to:

- Heavy sweating;
- Muscle cramps;
- Weakness;
- Headache;
- Nausea and/or vomiting;
- Diarrhea;
- Tiredness; and,
- Dizziness.

During warm weather, providers should monitor persons in care daily for [symptoms](#) of heat-related illness. Persons showing symptoms of heat-related illness should receive the appropriate care immediately. The effects of heat-related illness can last up to seven days.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) offer the following tips to stay safe during periods of excessive heat:

- Never leave infants, children, dependent adults, the elderly, or pets in a parked car. It can take as little as 10 minutes for the temperature inside a car to rise to levels that can kill, even if windows are cracked open.
- Drink plenty of fluids, regardless of activity level and even if not thirsty. Avoid very cold drinks, which can cause stomach cramps or drinks with caffeine, alcohol, or high sugar content, which can cause loss of body fluid.

**Important!** If persons in care have been directed by their doctor to limit the amount of fluid they drink, or if they take water pills, their doctor should provide information on how much they can safely drink when the weather is hot.

- Monitor those on medications. Many medications increase the likelihood of dehydration.

- Stay in an air-conditioned area as much as possible. Call your [local health department](#) to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your area. Electric fans may provide comfort but will not prevent heat-related illness.
- Limit outdoor activity to the coolest temperatures of the day, for example, during morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas.
- Wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing to keep cool and a wide-brimmed hat to cover the face and neck. Apply sunscreen with Sun Protection Factor 15 (SPF 15) or higher 30 minutes prior to going out, to protect skin from the sun. The CDC suggests that sunscreens that say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels, be used. Follow sunscreen directions on package.

**Important!** For Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers, written approval from a child's authorized representative is required prior to using any over-the-counter medication, including sunscreen.

- To prevent overheating, use cool compresses, misting, showers, and baths. Seek medical attention if the following symptoms are observed: throbbing headache, unconsciousness, red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating), rapid, strong pulse, feeling delirious, or a body temperature above 103 degrees.
- Check the local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips.

### **West Nile Virus Precautions**

Transmission of the West Nile Virus to people usually occurs in the summer and early fall when temperatures are warmer. If mosquitoes are abundant in the area, persons in care should remain indoors in the early morning and at twilight, when mosquitoes are known to be most active. Steps should be taken to reduce or remove standing water that can host mosquito eggs. [Use Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#) that, when used as directed, are safe and effective.

**Important!** For Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers, written approval from a child's authorized representative is required prior to using any over-the-counter medication such as insect repellent. Additional guidance on West Nile Virus can be found on the [Center for Disease Control](#) website.

### **Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)**

California fire authorities anticipate a large fire potential during the summer months in areas that may experience critical weather such as high winds and dry conditions. California energy companies may initiate PSPS, as a preemptive firefighting strategy, in locations experiencing critical weather. However, because energy systems rely on

power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties, and regions, the power may be shut off in areas not experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions.

If a public safety power shutoff is needed, expect the following:

- **Early Warning Notification** – The energy company will aim to send customer alerts before shutting off power.
- **Ongoing Updates** – The energy company will provide ongoing updates through social media, local news outlets, and its website.
- **Safety Inspections** – After extreme weather has passed, the energy company will inspect the lines in affected areas before power is safely restored.
- **Power Restoration** – Power outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. Power will remain out for as long as extreme and dangerous weather conditions pose a potential fire risk.

**Important!** In anticipation of PSPS, the CCLD reminds providers to update their energy company with contact information and sign up for alerts to ensure prompt notice when electricity must be turned off for public safety. Please visit [The Power of Being Prepared](#) to learn more about PSPS and how to sign up for alerts from utility companies. In addition, high winds may result in energized and extremely dangerous downed power lines. **Do not touch or try to move power lines, keep people and animals away, leave the area immediately, and call 911.**

### **Wildfire Emergencies**

Wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape. The fire season in California is starting earlier and ending later each year. Because of this, California may no longer have a wildfire "season" but rather a year-round risk of wildfires. Being prepared has never been more important especially with potential events of critical weather. To prepare for wildfire emergencies, providers are encouraged to:

- Create a [Wildfire Action Plan](#) including identifying several alternative escape routes from the facility and community.
- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers are always in place and working.
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated on the fire, as cell phone service may not be available.

- Create a defensible space around the facility by trimming trees and other vegetation, clearing away dead branches, wood piles, and vegetation from the roof, patio furniture, and play equipment, and keep rain gutters free of debris.

### **Emergency Plan Updates, Reporting Requirements and CCLD Assistance**

CCLD reminds providers to review their facility's emergency/disaster plan to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. CCLD also reminds providers to update the local regional office with any changes to their contact information including any changes to their telephone number or email address (see below for Regional Office contact information).

Incidents/occurrences such as injuries, illnesses, or deaths related to the topics in this PIN shall be reported to the local licensing office. Providers are encouraged to review their facility's applicable reporting requirements.

### **Everbridge Emergency Notification System**

CCLD will continue to use the Everbridge Emergency Notification System to notify licensed facilities, to the best of its ability, in advance of, or during, disaster events (Including fires and PSPS) and to ensure the health and safety of persons in care. Please reference [PIN 23-11-CCLD](#) for additional details on the Everbridge system and how to communicate facility operational status during emergencies.

### **Additional Resources**

The following additional links are resources to assist providers in being prepared for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs, and wildfire emergencies:

- CDC:
  - [Prevent Tick and Mosquito Bites](#)
  - [Protecting Vulnerable Groups from Extreme Heat](#)
- CDPH:
  - [Being Informed During Extreme Heat](#)
  - [Extreme Heat and Health: Recommendations and Resources](#)
  - [Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#)
- National Weather Service: [Watches, Warnings or Advisories for California](#)
- [California Office of Emergency Services: for the latest news on emergencies.](#)
- [Office of the Governor of California: Protecting Californians From Extreme Heat: A State Action Plan to Build Community Resilience](#)

If you have any questions regarding this PIN, please contact your local CCLD Licensing Office.

- Child Care Regional Offices
- Children's Residential Regional Offices
- Adult and Senior Care Regional Offices
- Home Care Services Bureau