

System Alerts, Warnings and Emergencies

Energy shortages can be caused by persistent high heat, equipment failure, weather events, or natural disasters, such as wildfires. When electricity supplies get tight, the California ISO uses a series of notifications to inform market participants and the public of potential energy shortages. The ISO's Alerts, Warnings, and Emergency (AWE) messages announce escalation of adverse grid or market conditions.

To learn more about AWE messages, go to [ISO System Emergency procedures](#). Download the ISO Today mobile app to get AWE notifications.

The North American Reliability Corp. (NERC) developed a separate set of alert designations, the Energy Emergency Alert (EEA). EEAs are issued by the Reliability Coordinator, RC West, for any balancing authorities in its RC area. The ISO AWE and RC West EEA designations have different numbers for the phases of an emergency. The ISO is planning to align the ISO's designations to match the EEAs, in an effort to be consistent with the alerts used by RC West and other balancing authorities in WECC. [Learn more about EEAs.](#)

AWE NOTIFICATIONS



Flex Alerts - A Flex Alert is a call to consumers to voluntarily conserve electricity when the ISO anticipates using nearly all available resources to meet demand.

Reducing energy use during a Flex Alert can prevent more dire measures, such as moving into AWE notifications, emergency procedures, and even [rotating power outages](#). Visit the ISO's [Flex Alert](#) website for energy conservation tips and to sign up for notifications.



Restricted Maintenance Operations
High loads are anticipated. ISO participants are cautioned to avoid taking grid assets offline for routine maintenance, to assure that all generators and transmission lines are available.



Alert - All available resources are online, and resource deficiencies are expected. Market participants encouraged to offer supplemental energy. Issued by 3 p.m. the day before projected shortfall. RC West issues EEA watch.



Warning - Market participants encouraged to offer supplemental energy and RC West issues EEA-1. ISO may call for demand response, and when demand response is dispatched, RC West issues EEA-2.



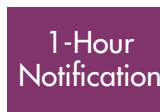
Transmission Emergency
Declared for any event threatening or limiting transmission grid capability, including line or transformer overloads or loss.



ISO requests certain market participants to voluntarily reduce energy use. RC West issues EEA-2.



ISO calls for utilities to voluntarily interrupt loads where possible. Requests maximum conservation.



ISO may initiate rotating outages within an hour. RC West issues EEA-3.



Controlled power curtailments are imminent or in progress. ISO calls for out-of-market and emergency energy from all available sources.