FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Aug. 18, 2020
Contact: ISOMedia@caiso.com

The ISO declares Stage 2 Emergency; power outages likely

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) has declared a statewide Stage 2 Emergency for Tuesday, Aug. 18, and is urgently appealing to consumers to conserve energy immediately to avert or limit power outages today.

If system conditions do not improve, the ISO will declare a Stage 3 Emergency, including rotating power outages.

The ISO is working closely with utilities and neighboring power systems to manage the strain on the grid and to limit any potential power disruptions.

The ISO also called a Flex Alert, a voluntary call to consumers to conserve electricity, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. today through Wednesday, Aug. 19. Consumers are urged during those times to set air conditioner thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, turn off unnecessary lights, and defer use of major appliances.

These conservation measures can help the power grid during a time of tight demand and supply. Reduced energy use during a Flex Alert can prevent further emergency measures, including the incidence of rotating power outages.

The ISO also issued a warning earlier today that encouraged energy resources to participate in the ISO market and allowed the grid operator to request utilities implement demand response programs to reduce residential and business electricity use.

For information on outage locations, timing, or health concerns, contact utilities or energy providers.

Click here to learn more about System Alerts, Warnings, and Emergencies.

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