



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (12/23/22)

6.4 Magnitude Ferndale Earthquake

The biggest news that has come out of this week is the earthquake that took place in Humboldt county. *CNN* reports that more than 68% of customers were without power in Humboldt County, California, following a 6.4 magnitude earthquake earlier Tuesday.

According to poweroutage.us, 67,777 customers are still experiencing an outage as of just before 2:00 p.m. PT.

This is slightly down from the more than 71,000 customers who were in the dark earlier Tuesday morning following the earthquake. To read more <https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/northern-california-earthquake-humboldt-county/index.html>

The big question from *Cal Matters*: Will Northern California earthquake revive seismic safety debate? And is California prepared for the big one? See what they have to say about it here: <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2022/12/northern-california-earthquake-safety-debate/>

COVID News

Holidays gatherings and COVID are of concern according to the *Sacramento Bee*.

The past three years the holidays have been clouded with pandemic concerns. Now, with COVID, the flu and RSV circulating — what should folks look out for at gatherings? The Sacramento Bee service journalism team posed the same questions to three California hospitals. The following doctors provided emailed responses:

Dr. Matthew Eldridge, chief of infectious diseases for Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento

Dr. Dean Blumberg, chief of pediatric infectious disease at UC Davis

Dr. Namrita Gogia, vice chair of internal medicine and COVID-19 czar at Dignity Health

Read more at: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/health-and-medicine/article269790602.html#storylink=cpy>To find out more around safety tips around

holiday get-togethers and potlucks see the article here: [COVID, flu advice from CA doctors: Should I gather indoors? | The Sacramento Bee \(sacbee.com\)](#)

COVID and Medicaid

San Francisco Chronicle article states that a massive budget plan released by lawmakers in Washington would boot millions of Medicaid recipients who had been protected by COVID emergency rules from the health coverage program. The strain on California hospitals shows no signs of abating as flu and RSV patients combine with the rise in COVID patients. The burden in Contra Costa County prompted officials to call on residents to refrain from calling 911 ambulances except for a true emergency, while Oakland city councilors voted late Tuesday to reinstate a mask mandate in city-operated facilities. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/covid-in-california-updates-17667888.php>

Winter Season Safety Tips

CAL OES states that warming centers are available for the vulnerable communities around the State. Click here to see the various locations. [Warming Centers \(arcgis.com\)](#)

In addition they have provided car safety, generator safety and others tips to keep safe during this season. <https://news.caloes.ca.gov/warming-centers-among-winter-weather-resources-available-for-vulnerable-communities/>

Wildfire Updates

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS reported: Higher monthly bills might jolt PG&E customers due to the utility's request that state regulators allow the company to collect more revenue for its spending linked to wildfires and catastrophes.

PG&E wants to recover costs that arose from its expenditures for the mitigation of wildfires and dealing with certain catastrophes, according to recent state and regulatory filings.

Monthly bills for PG&E customers could jump over a period of three years, with the first increases starting during the second half of 2023 — depending on whether the state Public Utilities Commission approves the increases.

Oakland-based PG&E is attempting to recover \$1.36 billion in costs, filings with the state PUC and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission show.

The company's equipment has triggered a series of fatal and destructive wildfires in Northern California over the last several years. PG&E also caused a fatal gas explosion that killed eight and destroyed a San Bruno neighborhood in 2010.

“Our most important responsibility is the safety of our customers and hometowns,” PG&E spokesperson Mike Gazda said. “We also recognize our responsibility to keep energy bills as low as possible for our customers.”

Listed here is the full article. <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/12/19/pge-wildfire-catastrophe-proposal-higher-monthly-bill-electric-gas/>

Climate

The *WASHINGTON POST* states; To achieve America’s goal of [shifting 80 percent of the country’s electricity away from fossil fuels](#) by the end of the decade, there will have to be a massive transformation. That means solar farms peppering the landscape from California to New York; offshore wind turbines standing high above the waves off the coast of New Jersey; nuclear power plants emitting steam in rural areas. Together, these projects would have to add around [950 gigawatts](#) of new clean energy and 225 gigawatts of energy storage to the grid.

And right now, projects accounting for at least [930 gigawatts](#) of clean energy capacity and 420 gigawatts of storage are waiting to be built across the country.

They just can’t get connected to the grid.

These roadblocks — known as “interconnection queues” — are slowing America’s energy transition and the country’s ability to respond to climate change.

“It’s a huge problem,” said David Gahl, executive director of the Solar and Storage Industries Institute, a research group affiliated with the solar industry. “If we don’t make changes, we’re not going to meet state and federal targets for climate change.”

To understand the lines blocking the U.S.’s progress on climate change, you first have to understand a bit about how the electricity grid works. It’s easiest to think about the grid — which carries electrons — like the country’s roads carrying cars. The complete article is here.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/12/20/clean-energy-bottleneck-transmission-lines/>

Also, from the *WASHINGTON POST* are **10 steps you can take to lower your carbon footprint** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2022/02/22/climate-change-actions-carbon-footprint/>

FEMA Press Release

Federal Support Following Hurricane Ian Nears \$4 Billion-

Release Date: 12-19-2022

WASHINGTON

A press release from *FEMA* states Nearly \$3.99 billion in federal grants, disaster loans and flood insurance payments have been provided to the state of Florida and to households there to help Floridians jumpstart their recovery following Hurricane Ian.

FEMA has provided \$833 million to households and \$415 million to the state for emergency response, while the U.S. Small Business Administration has provided \$1.28 billion in disaster loans and the National Flood Insurance Program has paid \$1.46 billion in claims. For the complete article. <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20221219/federal-support-following-hurricane-ian-nears-4-billion>

Department of Defense – Military Support of Family Members

U.S. Department of Defense announced that they and military services are making progress in one of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's priorities – taking care of service members and their families.

In a September memo, Austin laid out specific actions to improve and enhance support to military members and their families in several important areas. Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder detailed some of DOD's progress during a news conference today. "The secretary has been crystal clear that taking care of our service members and their families is a sacred obligation and a national security imperative," Ryder said. In October, DOD permanently increased temporary lodging expense coverage to give families more flexibility to search for housing. The department also began paying dislocation allowance to all eligible service members.

Next month, the dislocation allowance will be increased for enlisted service members between the grades of E-1 to E-6 to help offset personal expenses for permanent changes of station Ryder said.

DOD is also working to provide additional support for military spouses. One program would expand spouse employment, while another looks to lessen the roadblocks for spouses who are relocating. "We know that one-third of military spouses must obtain new professional licenses every time they move to a new state," Ryder said.

"To ease this burden, we've accelerated the development of seven more interstate licensure compacts. We anticipate state approval starting in 2023." Ryder said the most important of these is the interstate teacher mobility compact, which is being introduced in state legislatures across the nation next month.

Also important to DOD is the improvement in childcare programs. "This past fall, we expanded the Military Childcare in Your Neighborhood-Plus program to more states, which will increase access to quality civilian childcare providers when on-base childcare is unavailable," he said. <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3251997/dod-shows-progress-in-supporting-service-members-families/>