

# Emergency Disaster Relief Program (R.18-03-011)

California Public Utilities Commission  
Communications Division  
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California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Backup Power and Resiliency Plans

- Wireless and VoIP are now the standard means of voice communications
- In response to widespread outages of these services during utility Public Safety Power Shutoff events and wildfires, the CPUC unanimously approved two separate Decisions, D.21-02-029 (wireline) and D.20-07-011 (wireless).
- There are six resiliency strategies included for all facilities-based wireline and wireless communications service providers for Tier 2 and 3 high fire threat districts.

# Six Resiliency Strategies

The CPUC gave service providers the flexibility to decide how to implement these six groups of resiliency strategies in Tier 2 and 3 high fire threat districts:

1. Implement back-up power duration of 72 hours to support all essential communications equipment and minimum service levels for the public
2. Build and maintain redundant communication networks
3. Harden communication networks to withstand damage
4. Use temporary facilities (e.g., mobile cell sites, mobile satellite, and microwave backhaul, etc.) to restore service damaged or destroyed facilities
5. Establish communication and coordination processes with first responders, other public utilities, the Commission, and the general public.
6. Establish preparedness planning for employees and ensure sufficient staffing levels

Providers must submit the following information-only filing to the CPUC's Communication Director, Cal OES and local agencies



# Compliance Timeline

**Table 1: CPUC Requirements for Wireless and Wireline Backup Power**

	<b>CPUC Decision Number</b>	<b>Effective Date of Decision</b>	<b>Deadline to Implement 72 Hour Minimum Backup Power</b>	<b>Locations to Implement 72 Hour Backup</b>	<b>Exceptions to 72 Hour Backup Requirement</b>
<b>Wireline</b>	D.21-02-029	Feb. 11, 2021	8 or 18 months from effective date of Decision	Tier 2 and 3 High Fire-Threat Districts	Permissible
<b>Wireless</b>	D.20-07-011	July 16, 2020	12 months from effective date of Decision	Tier 2 and 3 High Fire- Threat Districts	Permissible

# Scope of Resiliency Plans

## Pursuant to Rulemaking 18-03-011 Resiliency Strategy Plan Filings

Year	Number of Wireless Carriers	Number of Cell Tower Sites
2021	4	6,224
2022	4	6,065
2023	4	5,442
Total		17,731

Year	Number of Wireline Carriers	Number of Wireline Facilities
2021	38	14,406
2022	38	15,844
Total		30,250

# 72-Hour Backup Power Exceptions

- When the CPUC adopted these two Decisions, the CPUC recognized cases where companies might be unable to implement the minimum backup power duration of 72 hours.
- These companies are required to inform the CPUC when a facility (or group of facilities) falls under these situations:
  - Does not need backup power;
  - Is unable to support backup power due to safety risks; or,
  - Is objectively impossible or infeasible to deploy a backup power.
- Each of the four facilities-based wireless service providers asserted that they have implemented the minimum backup power duration of 72 hours for their facilities in California's Tier 2 and 3 High Fire Threat Districts.

# Findings and Lessons Learned

- Sites missing and miscategorized inadvertently from the Resiliency Plan
  - Carriers quickly moved the sites to resilient bucket
- One major provider upgraded sites to Advanced Battery (TPPL) technology rather than mobile generators
- Some aspects open to interpretation
- Proper analysis required appropriate Tools and Resources
  - Significant manual analysis (~1 million lines of data analysis post delivery of Resiliency Plans)
  - Data submission templates are detailed
- Monitoring compliance is a challenge





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