

Hosting overnight guests proves prickly for family

DEAR ABBY: We have a small house, and family and friends are always welcome. We also have six cats, and their care and comfort are paramount. We keep our cats separated so they don't fight, so two cats occupy what used to be our guest room. We have explained this to overnight guests, several of whom are allergic to cats or don't like them, and they insist "everything will be fine." They then refuse to let the cats into the room during the day, while our distressed feline family members howl and claw the door.

There are simple things that must be done when living with cats, like making sure they don't run outside (they are all indoor cats), keeping toilet lids down and breakable things out of their reach. Our guests don't seem to care and they don't comply. Frankly, I wouldn't care if the cats took their jewelry, but I would care if one of them choked on it.

Why is this so hard to understand? Our cats need care and consideration; they are not disposable furry houseplants. To be fair, we visit with these petless folks, so we can't ask them not to stay with us. I've even tried putting Post-it notes around the house, reminding guests to keep doors and toilet lids closed, etc. They reacted like they thought I was rude! How do we handle this politely so there are no hurt feelings?

— NEW ENGLAND CAT LOVER

DEAR CAT LOVER: It's time to end the tradition of staying in each other's homes. There will be fewer hurt feelings all the way around — your pets included — if, when you visit these folks you stay someplace other than in their home and suggest to them that they do likewise. This doesn't mean you won't see and entertain them — it only means they won't be subject to your house rules, which clearly are not acceptable to them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been having the roughest year of our marriage, and we are divorcing. He has started a new relationship with a woman who is 14 years younger than he is, and he takes our 5-year-old to her house. I feel it is inappropriate

because who knows if this relationship will last? My husband and I are still living together. He's in the basement; I'm upstairs. I don't think it's wise for him to take our child on picnics and play dates at her house. I have tried to have a conversation about boundaries and doing what's best for our daughter, and I don't know what his next move will be. Living with the young lady? What should I do next?

— MOVING ON

DEAR MOVING ON:

There is a commonsense rule that parents who are divorcing should not introduce a child to the new partner until it's clear the relationship will be long-lasting. At this point, you can't control to whom your husband introduces your little girl. This is a conversation you should be having with the attorney who is arranging your divorce. If something presents a danger to your child, the lawyer may be able to help you put a stop to it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a successful career woman in my 50s. My husband is in his 40s. We decided several years ago that he could stop working, as my income is enough for both of us. He runs our household and is invaluable to me, not only as manager of our household, but also because he looks after the affairs of both our aging parents. Our kids are grown, so there's no need for child care. When we go to social functions, invariably he gets asked, "So, what do you do?" When we say he's retired, people look at him suspiciously. I suspect they think he's taking advantage of me, when that couldn't be further from the truth. There is no way I could be as successful in my career without his support. What would be a good response? I think it hurts his feelings, but he keeps it quiet.

— GOOD THING GOING OUT WEST

DEAR GOOD THING: Congratulations on having a partnership that is working so well. People often ask this question as a way of starting a conversation with someone they don't know. Your husband might answer it by saying, "I'm retired now, but I used to work in ---. What do you do?"

WILDFIRES-POWER

California utility faces gripes over deliberate blackouts

By Brian Melley and Jonathan J. Cooper
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even as the winds gusted dangerously just as forecasters predicted, California's biggest utility faced gripes and second-guessing Thursday for shutting off electricity to millions of people to prevent its equipment from sparking wildfires.

Gov. Gavin Newsom criticized Pacific Gas & Electric, and ordinary customers complained about the inconveniences caused by the unprecedented blackouts that began Wednesday, with many wondering: Has PG&E gone too far in its attempt to ward off another deadly fire season? And could the utility have been more targeted in deciding whose electricity was turned off and when?

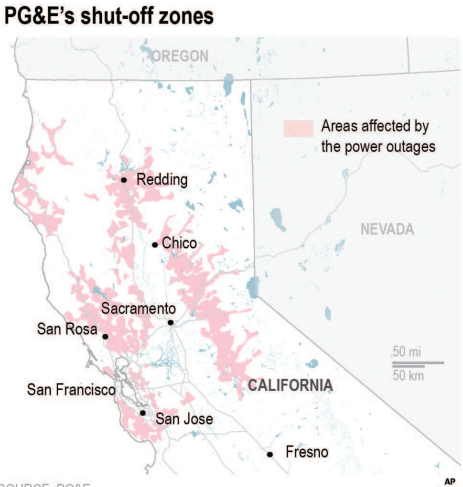
PG&E, though, suggested it was already seeing the wisdom of its decision borne out. Gusts topping 75 mph raked the San Francisco Bay Area, and relatively small fires broke out around the state amid a bout of dry, windy weather.

"We have had some preliminary reports of damage to our lines. So we'll have to repair those damages before we can safely energize the line," spokesman Paul Doherty said.

Because of the dangerous weather in the forecast, PG&E cut power Wednesday to an estimated 2 million people in an area that spanned the San Francisco Bay Area, the wine country north of San Francisco, the agricultural Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada foothills. By Thursday, the number of people in the dark was down to about 1.5 million.

PG&E cast the blackouts as a matter of public safety, aimed at preventing the kind of blazes that have killed scores of people over the past couple of years, destroyed thousands of homes, and run up tens of billions of dollars in claims that drove the company into bankruptcy.

The fire danger spread to Southern California on Thursday as raging winds moved down the state. A blaze threatened homes in the community of Fontana, and Southern California Edison shut off electricity to about 12,000 people just outside Los Angeles, with wider blackouts possible.



Still, many of those affected by the outages, which could last as long as five days, were not so sure about the move.

Sergio Vergara, owner of Stinson Beach Market, situated on scenic Highway 1, on the Pacific Coast just north of San Francisco, operated the store with a propane generator so his customers could have coffee, milk, meat and frozen meals.

"I'm telling you as a plain human being, there is no wind, there is no heat," he said. "We never saw something like this where they just decide to shut off the power, but on the other side — preventing is a good thing, but it's creating a lot of frustration."

But in powered-down Oakland, Tianna Pasche said: "If it saves a life, I'm not going to complain about it."

Faced with customer anger, PG&E put up barricades around its San Francisco headquarters. A customer threw eggs at a PG&E office in Oroville. And a PG&E truck was hit by a bullet, though authorities could not immediately say whether it was targeted.

Sumet Singh, PG&E's vice president of community wildfire safety, urged people to be kind to workers out in the field, saying the employees and contractors "have families that live in your communities."

"Let's just ensure their safety as well, as they are doing this work in the interest of your safety," Singh said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said PG&E should have been working on making its power system sturdier and more weatherproof.

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weather

TONIGHT

Cold with a moonlit sky

Baker City 20

Comfort Index™ 3

SAT

Clouds and sun

Baker City 59 30

Comfort Index™ 8

SUN

Cloudy

Baker City 60 27

Comfort Index™ 8

MON

Sunshine and a few clouds

Baker City 58 26

Comfort Index™ 7

TUE

Periods of sunshine

Baker City 61 32

Comfort Index™ 7

La Grande 28

Comfort Index™ 2

La Grande 59 34

Comfort Index™ 5

La Grande 58 32

Comfort Index™ 5

La Grande 56 30

Comfort Index™ 7

La Grande 61 38

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 27

Comfort Index™ 5

Enterprise 57 35

Comfort Index™ 9

Enterprise 54 29

Comfort Index™ 3

Enterprise 53 30

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 61 36

Comfort Index™ 9

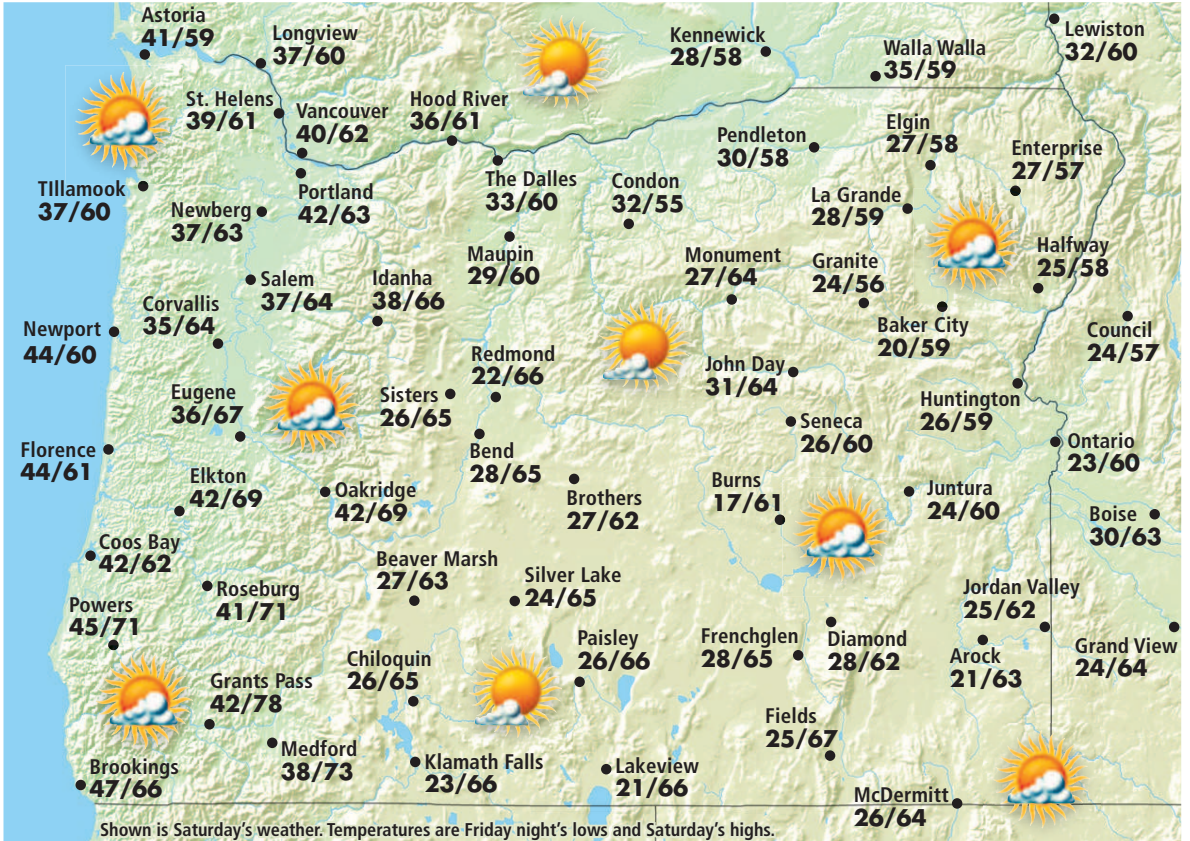
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC	WED. EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Wednesday	43°	42°	41°
Low Wednesday	25°	21°	24°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	Trace	Trace	0.23
Month to date	0.02	0.07	0.27
Normal month to date	0.15	0.27	0.34
Year to date	7.05	12.58	22.95
Normal year to date	7.77	11.81	16.19

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY		
Lowest relative humidity	25%		
Afternoon wind	S at 7 to 14 mph		
Hours of sunshine	8.0		
Evapotranspiration	0.12		
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)			
Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	27% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	62% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	36% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	23% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	13% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	824 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	53 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	86 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	33 cfs		

SUN & MOON			FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	7:03 a.m.	7:04 a.m.		
Sunset	6:15 p.m.	6:13 p.m.		
Moonrise	5:53 p.m.	6:15 p.m.		
Moonset	4:37 a.m.	5:38 a.m.		
MOON PHASES				
Full	Last	New	First	
				
Oct 13	Oct 21	Oct 27	Nov 4	

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	59/47/c	57/42/c	Lewiston	60/41/c	59/40/c
Bend	65/38/pc	61/30/pc	Longview	60/47/sh	61/40/pc
Boise	63/37/pc	64/36/pc	Meacham	56/32/pc	56/31/c
Brookings	66/50/pc	64/50/pc	Medford	73/44/pc	69/42/c
Burns	61/27/pc	63/27/pc	Newport	60/47/sh	57/42/pc
Coos Bay	62/48/sh	60/43/pc	Olympia	58/42/sh	59/38/pc
Corvallis	64/44/sh	62/38/c	Ontario	60/32/pc	62/33/pc
Council	57/31/pc	59/30/pc	Pasco	58/37/c	63/35/c
Elgin	58/34/pc	57/34/c	Pendleton	58/38/c	61/38/c
Eugene	67/46/sh	63/40/c	Portland	63/47/sh	61/42/c
Hermiston	59/36/pc	66/39/c	Powers	71/50/pc	64/43/pc
Hood River	61/41/c	62/38/c	Redmond	66/36/pc	63/28/pc
Imnaha	63/35/pc	60/33/c	Roseburg	71/48/pc	64/44/pc
John Day	64/38/pc	60/32/c	Salem	64/46/sh	61/39/c
Joseph	58/35/pc	53/28/c	Spokane	53/37/c	50/33/c
Kennewick	58/37/c	64/37/c	The Dalles	60/42/c	64/39/c
Klamath Falls	66/30/c	65/28/s	Ukiah	58/33/pc	56/29/c
Lakeview	66/27/pc	64/25/s	Walla Walla	59/41/c	61/42/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Clouds and sun	Partly sunny
42 25	56 30
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Sunny intervals	Clouds and sun
50 34	60 35
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Sun and clouds	Mostly cloudy
45 26	55 29
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Clouds and sun	Clouds and sun
58 35	59 38
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Partly sunny	Clouds and sun
59 30	59 34

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