

Briefing of public works efforts for recent storm events

Beginning on Monday February 16th. Public works crews began snow plowing operations for all 17 plow zones in the Dorrington, Arnold, and West Point areas.

Our department deployed its entire fleet of 27 pieces of equipment consisting of:

- 1 Loader mounted blower
- 3 Loaders w/ wing plows
- 1 Grader w/ wing plow
- 7 Large Class A Dump Trucks
- 7 Pickups
- 3 550 Dump Trucks
- 1 Backhoe
- 2 fuel trucks
- 2 Swamper/ tow-rigs

This effort consisted of an around-the-clock operation, deploying all available resources and staff.

As plowing efforts began and as the weather continued to become more severe, plowing operations became more challenging and crews had to contend with several factors contributing to the decline in efficiency of our plowing operations

These factors included:

- Poor communication from PG&E on their efforts to clear downed lines
- Providing plowed access to several water district facilities to repair and maintain critical water infrastructure
- Assist PG&E crews with plowed access to several staging areas as efforts ramped up to restore power
- Plow crews were called upon to assist with fire and EMS extrications for emergency response and evacuations

Severe weather, downed trees, and downed power lines hindered operations and added layers of complexity to our efforts as coordination to remove trees tangled in power lines became more problematic due to safety concerns and coordination with PG&E

By Thursday, February 19th, our progress was impacted significantly as roads became impassable due to heavy snow accumulation and an overwhelming amount of power line conflicts.

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By Friday, February 20th, Dorrington received approx. 88 inches of snow and the Arnold community received 58 inches of snow.

PG&E had reported several hundred downed power poles, and over 9,500 customers without power.

As a result of these impacts to operations and the heavy accumulation of snow, our smaller equipment became ineffective, limiting us to only our larger equipment and significantly reducing the level of effort

By Friday, February 20th, PG&E began making progress on power restoration and has been working diligently with our team to clear downed power lines, poles, and trees to provide access to plow equipment.

Crews continued to plow through the weekend to make progress in areas that were being made accessible.

By Monday February, 23rd the Department of Public Works had received over:

- 20 disabled or abandoned vehicles blocking County Roadways
- 157 power line conflicts with downed trees
- 300 downed trees within the county ROW

Crews and staff have dedicated over 3000 total man hours (and counting) to this effort

Significant progress was made yesterday with much of the obstructions being cleared and the majority of roads have become passable. Our team remains dedicated to continuing this effort until all obstructions have been cleared and all roads are fully plowed.

With weather conditions transitioning to rain, our roads may become icy, increasing safety concerns to the motoring public

As we are not out of the clear yet, our department urges the public to take all necessary precautions to preserve and protect property from flooding.

All sandbag locations have been fully stocked and resources are available on a first come/first serve basis

Please refer to the Public Works page of the County website for additional information and resources