How Republic Services Plans — and Can Help You Plan — for Service During a Power Outage

To safeguard against wildfires, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has begun shutting off power in San José and other communities for several days during dangerous wildfire conditions to protect public health and safety. Scheduled and unscheduled power outages may be inconvenient, but they need not catch us completely off guard. Republic Services has a comprehensive plan in place so that service can continue with as little interruption as possible.

When street lights are out, our routes may take a little longer. Our drivers are well-trained in what to do in outage situations and operate with extreme caution.

Electric gates and enclosures will not be operable when the power is out. We handle these situations as we do when we do not have access to a location: The driver verifies the location via the onboard computer and GPS system and records a note (and, when necessary, a photo). The note is automatically transmitted to our dispatch office, where a dispatcher contacts the customer to try to gain access to the bins or inform the customer that we will return at a later time for collection.

In the event of widespread power outages, we’ll call customers in affected areas informing them to leave electronic gates open and leave bins outside gates and enclosures. Please check the contact number in your account to make sure it is up to date. If you need to update your information or make special arrangements for bin collection, contact us at 408-432-1234.
Meet Steven Hirsch, Recycling Coordinator at Republic Services

Q: What are your responsibilities as Recycling Coordinator?
A: Some of my responsibilities include setting up new businesses with the appropriate types of bins and level of service. By monitoring and evaluating existing commercial waste services through routine waste audits, I am able to make recommendations for businesses to adjust their service frequencies as well as improve their sorting. Improved sorting can help prevent contamination in the different waste streams and ensures a higher volume of material will be recycled and turned into new products.

Q: Do you serve a specific territory?
A: My territory covers most of South and West San José.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your role?
A: My favorite thing about being a Recycling Coordinator is that I’m able to work in the field. I enjoy meeting with business owners and property managers to help educate them about our unique WET, DRY program as well as proper recycling techniques to improve the quality of materials we process at our facility.

Q: What does a typical work day look like for you?
A: A typical day starts out at the office responding to emails and voicemails and planning visits to various businesses. Afternoons are spent in the field auditing bins, getting new businesses set up with service, and educating customers about the WET, DRY program. I’ll also address any issues brought to my attention by Route and Operations Supervisors and Managers and work with customers to ensure each business is serviced safely and efficiently.

Q: What is something about waste or recycling that you’d like to share with the business community?
A: Republic Services strives to divert 80 percent of material from the Newby Island landfill and into markets that create new products. Some waste is even converted into energy that goes back into the electrical grid. I would like to stress how important it is for everyone to be persistent in their efforts to properly separate the WET and DRY waste, which helps us increase the amount of material that we can divert from landfills.

What Goes Where?

WET — Organics: food scraps, food-soiled paper products, and landscape trimmings.
Tip: If it was grown or raised, it goes in the Wet bin.

DRY — Everything else: bottles and cans, plastics, clean cardboard and paper, scrap metals, and non-organics.
Tip: If you generate a large amount of one of the Dry materials — glass, cardboard or plastic — switch to a Customized (White) bin for improved recycling.

Republic Services Holiday Schedule

If your service day falls on: | Your collection day will be:
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Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving Day) | Friday, November 29
Friday, November 29 | Saturday, November 30
Saturday, November 30 | Saturday, November 30 (Regular Schedule)
Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day) | Thursday, December 26
Thursday, December 26 | Friday, December 27
Friday, December 27 | Saturday, December 28
Saturday, December 28 | Saturday, December 28 (Regular Schedule)
Wednesday, January 1 (New Year’s Day) | Thursday, January 2
Thursday, January 2 | Friday, January 3
Friday, January 3 | Saturday, January 4
Saturday, January 4 | Saturday, January 4 (Regular Schedule)

Take a Short Survey and Tell Us What You Think

It’s easy. It takes only a minute or two. And it’s the best way to help us improve our service. Don’t wait, take the survey today: surveymonkey.com/r/RepublicSCCO

We’re Here to Help

• Connect with your dedicated Recycling Coordinator
• Get FREE desk-side recycling boxes, labels, window stickers, and more
• Use our FREE online poster generator at recyclingpostergenerator.com to create signage that meets the needs of your business
• Schedule FREE waste audits and staff trainings

We’ll make it happen — just call Republic Services at 408-432-1234 or visit us online at republicservicessantaclaracounty.com.