



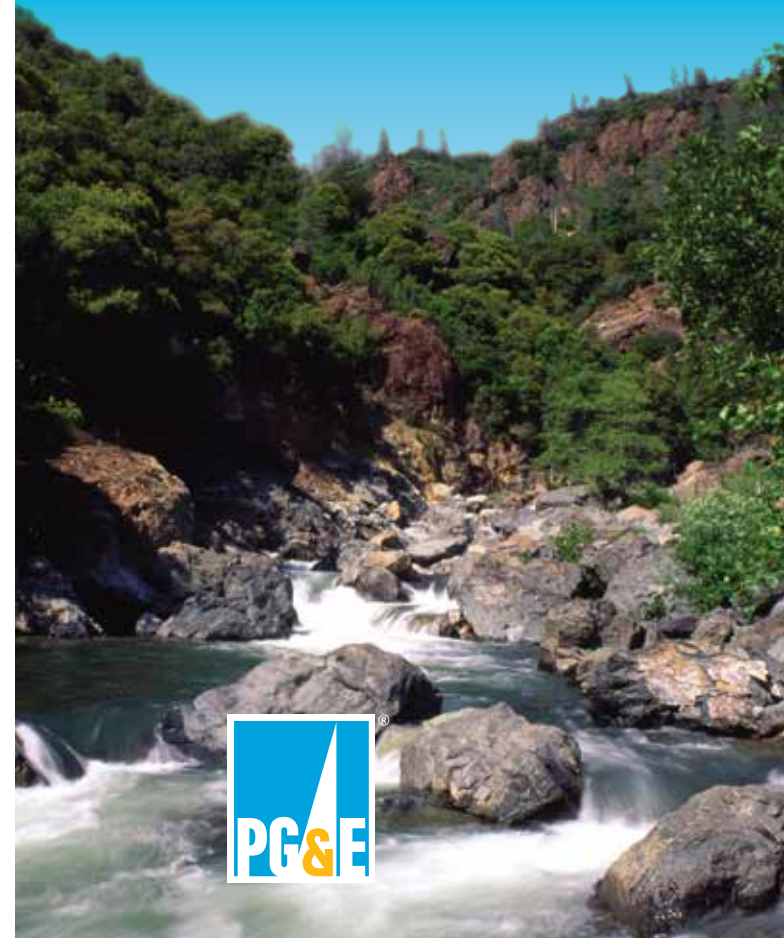
Benefits of hydropower

Hydropower produces reliable, renewable and clean energy. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) hydropower system—one of the largest in the country—provides a host of recreational opportunities including campgrounds, picnic areas, boat launches, trail, fishing and whitewater flows.



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Hydro Safety: What you need to know about these waterways





Know danger warning signs and what to do in case of an emergency

Be aware of rising, swift and cold water

Water levels can change without notice and create treacherous currents and drowning risks.

Listen and watch for these signs:

- Intensified sound of rushing water.
- Previously exposed rocks, sticks and brush that are suddenly covered with water.
- Increased water speed.
- More difficult to wade in water.
- Colder than expected water temperatures—even on the warmest days.

If swept off your feet:

- Drop any items that could weigh you down.
- Stay calm and lie on your back.
- Keep your feet up and pointed downstream to avoid hitting rocks and to prevent your feet getting tangled.
- Go with the current and move diagonally across the current until you reach shore.
- Roll onto dry land to drain boots or waders.
- If trapped on an island, stay there and signal for help.

Reservoir and river safety tips:

- Obey all warning signs and restrictive buoys while swimming or boating.
- Use the “buddy system.” Never fish, swim, boat or raft alone.
- Don’t dive or jump into unfamiliar water. Shallow water or submerged trees or rocks could cause serious injury.
- Wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Know your family’s plan to get out of the water at a moment’s notice.

PRIMARY DANGER AREAS NEAR DAMS

Swirling water and strong underwater currents
Submerged hazards near dams
Strong and swift currents around spillways
Slippery surfaces on ledges
Strong, deceiving flow in surface waters below the dams
Sudden unannounced water discharges from automatically operated gates



Canals may look inviting, but they can be dangerous. Canals are designed to move vast amounts of water quickly; they are not for swimming or for other types of water recreation.

Hidden dangers include:

- Slippery, steep sides
- Swift currents
- Icy cold water
- Underwater traps
- Fallen debris

If you fall into a canal:

- Call for help
- Stay calm; try to float
- Get to the side
- Hold on to grab holds or branches until help arrives

Play it safe—stay clear from canals. If you drop a personal article in a canal, leave it!

The impact of hydro generators on water levels

During heavy rains, melting snow or when electric generators are running, a river can quickly change from a slow stream to a raging river in a matter of minutes. Hydro generators are designed with equipment that releases rushing water to reduce water pressure and maintain overall safety on the waterway. However this release of water can cause an unexpected increase of water levels.

While rarely activated, you should remain aware of your surroundings at all times.

- Be alert for water level changes, even those affected by rain and melting snow.
- Be aware of your location near or across the stream from powerhouses. Remember that roads and trails may not be accessible after a release and the water rises.
- Learn the meanings of powerhouse warning signs, strobe lights and sirens, and obey them at all times
- Always move to a safe area if you see or hear a warning!



FROM THIS TO THIS

