\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2023-2024 Energy Emergency Alert Overview**

When electric supply and demand can’t be balanced with normal procedures, we begin emergency operations using three levels of Energy Emergency Alerts (EEAs). These levels provide access to resources only available during emergency conditions to protect the reliability of the electric system and prevent an uncontrolled system-wide outage. ERCOT currently has about 2,500 MW of additional capacity available when it enters emergency conditions.

**EEA levels and actions**

**A picture containing night sky

Description automatically generatedA picture containing night sky

Description automatically generatedA picture containing night sky

Description automatically generated**

**LEVEL ONE**

***If operating reserves drop below   
2,500\* MW and are not expected to recover within 30 minutes:***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Bring all available**

**generation online and release**

**any undeployed reserves**

**Increase other generation supplies and use demand response to lower electric demand, including and additional, available:**

*Imports from neighboring electric grids: up to 1,220 MW*

*•  
Switchable generation that can   
serve multiple electric grids: up to 542 MW*

[Additional information on EEA 1](https://www.ercot.com/energyemergone)

**LEVEL THREE**

***If operating reserves drop***

***below 1,500 MW, or the***

***grid’s frequency level drops below 59.8 Hz for any period of time:***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**As a last resort, instruct transmission and distribution service providers/companies to**

**reduce demand on the electric system, which occurs through the use   
of controlled outages, which impact all customer classes, including residential, commercial, and industrial**

[Additional information on EEA 3](https://www.ercot.com/energyemergthree)

**LEVEL TWO**

***If operating reserves drop below 2,000 MW and are not expected to recover within 30 minutes, or frequency drops below 59.91 Hz for 15 minutes:***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Request energy   
conservation from public   
(if not already in effect):   
MW vary**

**Reduce power by deploying remaining demand response programs, including:**

*Deploy operating reserves carried by Load Resources (some large industrial customers who are paid to reduce their power): up to 1591 MW  
•*

*Load management programs from transmission companies: 307 MW*

*•*

*Voltage reduction by transmission companies: 100-200 MW*

[Additional information on EEA 2](https://www.ercot.com/energyemergtwo)

*\** One megawatt (MW) of power generation is enough to power about 200 Texas homes during peak demand.

Note: Some steps may occur simultaneously and do not include additional voluntary demand response programs, where electric service from other ERCOT business and residential customers is interrupted during emergencies.

**Controlled outages**

Controlled outages are electric service interruptions, ordered by ERCOT but implemented by transmission and distribution service providers, to quickly reduce electric demand, balance the grid, and prevent an uncontrolled system-wide outage. They are used as a last resort to bring operating reserves back to a safe level and maintain system frequency. Each utility is responsible for deciding how to decrease demand in their area. ERCOT provides an amount in megawatts that each utility is required to reduce demand. It is based on their percentage of historic peak demand. Controlled outages are also referred to as load shed. Current [load shed tables](https://www.ercot.com/gridinfo/load) are updated annually.

ERCOT has initiated controlled outages four times since the grid operator was established:

* December 22, 1989: 500 MW
* April 17, 2006: 1,000 MW
* February 2, 2011: 4,000 MW
* February 15-18, 2021: 20,000 MW

**Seasonal factors that may result in tight grid conditions during summer months**

Sustained high temperatures across major metropolitan areas and cities along with a combination of high generation outages and low wind or solar generation may result in tight operating conditions.