SB Energy

Summer Weatherization Preparedness Training

PUCT 25.55

Summer 2025

SB Energy

Matthew Detmers

With over 8 years of dedicated experience in working in and around the Bulk Electric System, Matthew has an anecdote for almost any situation in the industry. Currently overseeing the regulatory compliance of 12 NERC registered entities, he preforms a critical role in ensuring reliability and compliance. Matthew describes himself as a lifelong learner driven by a desire to make even the most technological concepts approachable.

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Levi Cutburth

With over 12 years of dedicated experience in the solar industry, Levi brings a wealth of knowledge across operations and regulatory compliance.

Currently overseeing the Operations and Maintenance of nine solar sites totaling more than 3 GW, he plays a critical role in ensuring peak performance, reliability, and adherence to evolving industry standards.

Levi's diverse background reflects a commitment to continuous learning and excellence across all facets of solar energy.

Purpose

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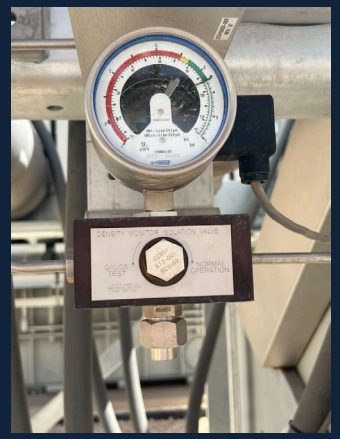
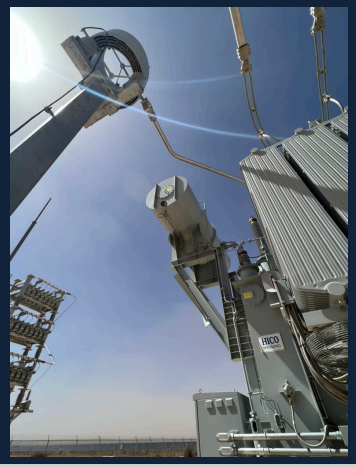
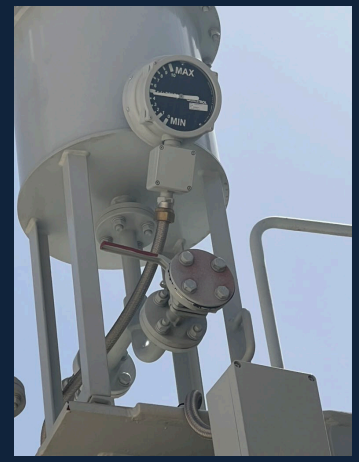
- Summer Weather Preparedness is more than just about summer
  - Reliable operations are the sum of continuous preparation
  - Year-round activities such as equipment inspections ensure consistent plant performance in both extreme and normal weather conditions.
  - This will be demonstrated with periodic component and facility inspections as described in this training
  - Identify critical components and equipment in summer conditions
- Review summer weather health and safety precautions with personnel
- Compliance with PUCT Substantive rule 25.55.

Critical Components

- GSU Main Power Transformer(s)
  - Ensure that fans are switched to the auto/on position
  - Verify that fans are clear of debris and can operate properly’
  - The Facility performed transformer systems maintenance to demonstrate best practices in compliance with 16 TAC 25.55.
  - Complied with the TSP checklist requirements for transformers by inspecting, cleaning, and functionality testing the generator step-up transformers.
- Substation Control House HVAC
  - Verify that the radiator is clear of debris and any additional fans are operational
  - Ensure that an adequate temperature delta from air inlet to air outlet occurs
  - Servers and networking infrastructure require cooler temperatures to operate.

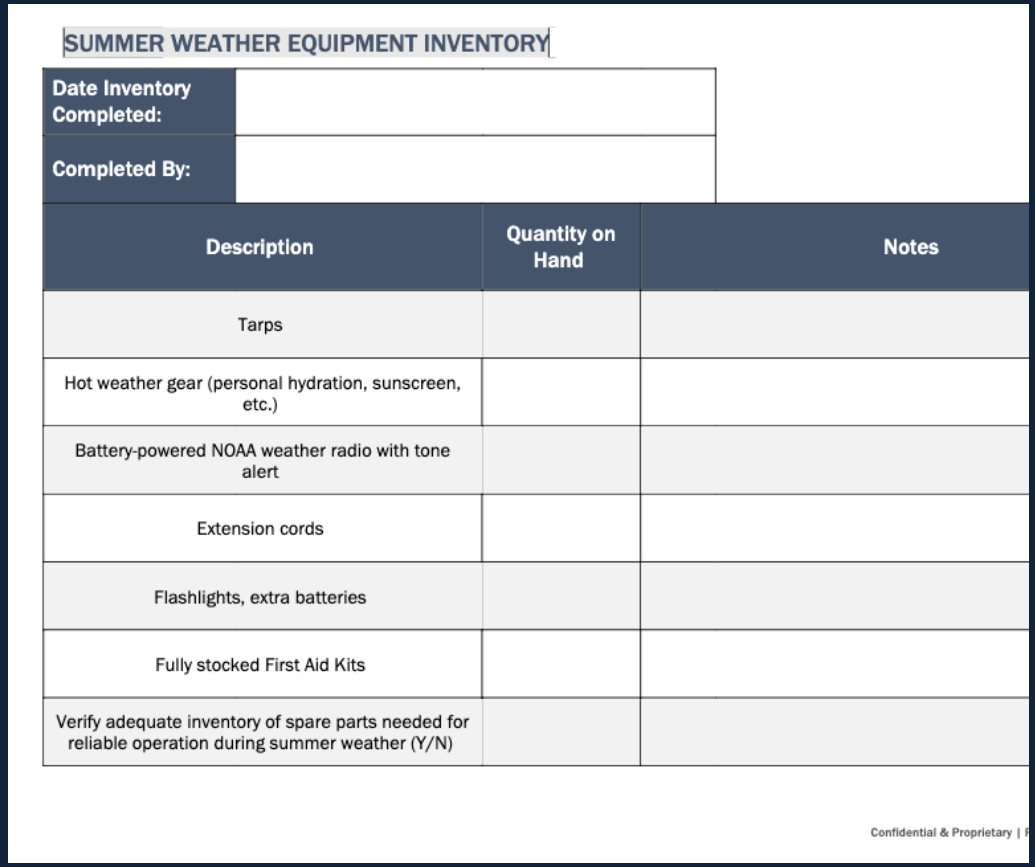






Summer Weatherization Inventory

- This differs on a per-site basis
- Contains items that must be available on site
- This includes items that can be used to protect the safety and welfare of plant personnel
- Consult the Summer Preparedness Checklist to determine quantities available on site



SUMMER WEATHER EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Date Inventory Completed:	
Completed By:	

Description	Quantity on Hand	Notes
Tarps		
Hot weather gear (personal hydration, sunscreen, etc.)		
Battery-powered NOAA weather radio with tone alert		
Extension cords		
Flashlights, extra batteries		
Fully stocked First Aid Kits		
Verify adequate inventory of spare parts needed for reliable operation during summer weather (Y/N)		

Example Inventory

Pre-Summer Checklist

- Must be completed prior to the Summer Season
- Includes items such as:
  - Staff Responsibilities, including first aid practices
  - Review Summer Weatherization Plan
  - Review site emergency contacts
  - Develop/Review list of Critical Equipment Monitoring Items

Date preparedness activities performed	
Completed by Plant Manager or Designee	

Item #	Item	Complete? Y/N	
1.	Review summer outage reporting requirements with management.		
2.	Ensure all weed abatement work orders are scheduled and completed prior to the onset of the summer season.		
3.	Establish and document staff responsibilities to monitor weather and receive weather alerts.		
4.	Establish and document a communications plan with the *SOLV* Control Center.		
5.	Develop a list of critical equipment that require increased surveillance during extreme heat or severe summer weather events.		
6.	Monitor and address any bird nesting in or around the high voltage substation		
7.	Inspect building penetrations, windows, doors, fan louvers, and other openings for potential exposure of critical equipment to the elements. Ensure O&M and Substation control building cooling systems can maintain cooling loads.		
8.	Check equipment inventory and replenish all quantities. Refer to Appendix 1 for inventory. Confirm completeness and expiration dates of First Aid kit		

Pre-Event Checklist

- ERCOT can also issue an Extreme Weather Advisory that triggers this checklist completion

- Before Extreme heat – the Plant manager should communicate with the facility and corporate personnel that site-specific summer weather readiness activities have been completed.

OCN has been issued for the predicted extreme hot weather event for the ERCOT Region for Saturday, October 12, 2024 through Sunday, October 13, 2024.

[redacted]

ERCOT Protocol Language:

6.5.9.3.1 Operating Condition Notice

(1) ERCOT will issue an Operating Condition Notice (OCN) to inform all QSEs of a possible future need for more Resources due to conditions that could affect ERCOT System reliability. OCNs are for informational purposes only, and ERCOT exercises no additional operational authority with the issuance of this type of notice, but may solicit additional information from QSEs in order to determine whether the issuance of an Advisory, Watch, or Emergency Notice is warranted. The OCN is the first of three levels of communication issued by ERCOT in anticipation of a possible Emergency Condition.

(2) When time permits, ERCOT will issue an OCN before issuing an Advisory, Watch, or Emergency Notice. However, issuance of an OCN may not require action on the part of any Market Participant, but rather serves as a reminder to QSEs and TSPs that some attention to the changing conditions may be warranted. OCNs serve to communicate to QSEs the need to take extra precautions to be prepared to serve the Load during times when contingencies are most likely to arise.

Date Completed:			
Completed By:			
Item #	Description	Complete? Y/N	
1.	Establish communications plan with remote operations control center and field personnel		
2.	Confirm weather alerting system is functional and configured for appropriate alerts		
3.	Request OCC confirmation of any active ERCOT Operational Condition Notices (OCN), Advisories, or Energy Emergency Alerts (EEA).		
4.	Secure facility materials to ensure operational reliability and site safety.		
5.	Establish staffing plan, including supplemental coverage. Confirm personnel awareness with the location and the conditions to activate the Emergency Operations Plan.		
6.	The Regional Lead or Lead Technician will discuss the weather forecast at the beginning of each shift with all personnel on site and ensure appropriate hydration, personal cooling systems, and controls on maintenance are established to prevent heat related injuries.		

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7.	Review site emergency medical procedures for treating heat related injuries.		
8.	Establish communication system for lone workers to ensure diagnosis of possible heat related injury.		

Emergency Operations Plan

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- Covers PUCT Rule 25.53
- Outlines Generator Response to Emergency Situations onsite
  - Including Weather, Fire, and Evacuation
- Roles and Responsibilities
  - Define’s roles such as responsibility as Emergency Coordinator
  - Role of Facility Lead technician has been superseded with Plant Manager

Next Steps

- Re-issue Procedure
- Re-issue Checklists
- Attestations of Training to be distributed to attendees

Thank you

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