

Public Service Electric and Gas Company

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SOLAR 4 ALL PROGRAM

POLE-TOP SOLAR SAFETY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are the panels safe?

The panels are very safe. These are the same solar panels that are mounted on homes, schools and other buildings. The panels are very durable and shatterproof.

What is the size and weight of the panels?

Solar units are 5 feet wide by 2.5 feet high and weigh about 60 pounds.

How are the panels mounted?

Panels are mounted in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code (NEC). The panels are mounted on the pole below all communications and electrical wiring – typically 15-18'. When over a roadway all panels will be at or above 15 feet to avoid damage from traffic.

What is the operating voltage of the panels?

The solar panels produce low voltage (120 volts) and are connected directly to PSE&G's electric grid.

In the event of a power outage will the panels provide back feed?

Solar units are designed not to provide back feed in accordance with UL Anti-Islanding Standard 1741. The inverter, mounted on the rear of the panel, will immediately turn off on loss of grid power. The unit will not turn back on until grid power has been restored for 5 minutes.

What wind speeds and ice load can these installations handle?

Solar panels are designed to meet the NEC requirements for this area which include 90 mph wind gust for 3 seconds and 0.5 inches of ice loading.

What actions can be taken by firefighters or emergency response personnel if a panel were to come down?

Firefighters or emergency response personnel should treat solar panels as they do other high voltage pole mounted electrical equipment. The area should be cordoned off, made safe and PSE&G should be notified. Only trained PSE&G personnel with proper personal protective equipment should work on pole mounted electrical equipment. While the panels themselves are safe and operate at 120V, all electric equipment must be treated as if it is energized at high voltage.

Do the panels contain hazardous material?

The solar panels are not hazardous. They are made of polycrystalline silicon covered with tempered glass.

Can the panel be handled when energized?

NO. The panels should only be handled by trained PSE&G personnel with proper personal protective equipment.

Is there a number to report damage, vandalism, etc.?

Please notify our call center at 800-436-7734