

CBS Mornings

09/07/22

7:00:56 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

GAYLE KING: California on the brink. Triple-digit heat leads to a warning about blackouts as wildfires rage all over the state.

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7:04:11 a.m.

20 seconds

KING: We're going to begin with what could be — could be a crisis in the making in California where scorching heat — and scorching is the word — it's pushing the power grid all the way to the limits. Record temperatures mean record demand for electricity. No surprise there. And that's forced officials to issue an alert. Blackouts could be on the way.

(....)

7:04:49 a.m.

1 minute and 22 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: California Power Emergency; Electricity Demand Breaks Records as Heat Strains Power Grid]

CARTER EVANS: Well, the good news is it's kind of cool right now, and this is the best part of the morning at four in the morning. But temperatures started soaring last week. They're expected to continue through the weekend. That's putting a strain on power equipment like this and just pretty much everyone in the state. With temperatures soaring across California, schools without air conditioning in one northern city are canceling afternoon classes for the rest of the week.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL: The classrooms were seeing about 84, 85 degrees.

EVANS: The need to control electricity is vital, says Governor Gavin Newsom.

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM (D-CA): We're heading to the worst part of the heat wave, and the risk for outages is real and it's immediate.

EVANS: At one point Tuesday, the state's power grid was pushed to the limit with demand soaring to a record of more than 52,000 megawatts. California's maximum is 56,000 megawatts. According to an expert we spoke with, California just doesn't have enough alternative energy like solar or wind resources to cover the increased demand, and the state's drought is impacting the power supply, as

well.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY's FRANK WOLAK: The reservoirs being as low as they are, we hit historical lows, means you just can't run as much water through the dams as you would like to.

EVANS: With no letup in the heat, wildfires are causing death and destruction across the state.

(...)

7:06:48 a.m.

21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Deadly California Wildfires; At Least Four Killed in Series of Wildfires Fueled by Heat & Drought]

EVANS: And with this heat continuing, California faces a double threat for days to come. Wildfire and power outages. Energy officials say there were some power outages last night, but none of those so-called rolling blackouts yet. Tony?

TONY DOKOUPIL: Yet. That is the key word. Carter, Thank you very much. Appreciate it. We'll keep following it.