

## Training and technology come together in a crisis

**P**ractice doesn't always make perfect, but it certainly helps when responding to an emergency.

"We have to be ready for any event that would prevent us from delivering gas and electricity to our customers," said Danny Zaragoza, director of emergency management for SDG&E®. "We provide quarterly training exercises for approximately 400 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responders. We train for different hazards such as wildfire damage to electric infrastructure."

### Activating the EOC

The EOC becomes a hub of activity whenever there's an emergency that affects gas or electric service.

Emergency response team members coordinate energy service restoration efforts.

EOC responders also work with the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, local fire departments, law enforcement, the American Red Cross and others to resolve the emergency, protect the public and coordinate communications. As needed, we share resources - including mobile emergency command centers, satellite communication systems and a helitanker (see photo on back page) - with public and private agencies.

### New fire modeling tool

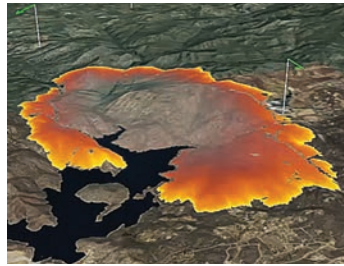
New this fall is fire behavior modeling software that our fire preparedness

## ▶ Get ready in case of emergency

Ready or not, you may be faced with an emergency someday. Our emergency checklists at [sdge.com/checklists](https://www.sdge.com/checklists) can help you prepare a family emergency plan and emergency supply kits. You'll also find links to energy safety tips. For tips on preparing for wildfires, visit [ReadyforWildfire.org](https://www.ReadyforWildfire.org).

team helped develop. It combines real-time data from our weather station network with vegetation conditions to see how fires are likely to act across the landscape. We also post the Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index and current weather conditions for public viewing year-round at [sdgeweather.com](https://www.sdgeweather.com).

*Danny Zaragoza directs emergency management services for SDG&E, including the Emergency Operations Center, mobile command centers, fire coordination services, meteorology and training. INSET PHOTO: Our new fire behavior modeling software produces 3-D images like this to monitor how fires are likely to act. Images change as the computer processes real-time data on weather and vegetation conditions.*



For more info, visit us anytime at [sdge.com](https://www.sdge.com).



## Focusing on fire safety in the field

### Alliances enhance community safety

More than 80 nonprofit organizations received grants totaling \$900,000 at our annual **SAFE San Diego Initiative** awards presentation in July. The grants support community safety groups dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency response, education and assistance.

Community Emergency Response Teams and Fire Safe Councils - 60 in all - received \$150,000 to help 2,800 active volunteers protect more than 70,500 homes and 5,200 acres. The grants are for 119 defensible space projects, 126 drills and 314 training workshops.

For people living on tribal lands, grants to the Intertribal Long-term Recovery Foundation support safety outreach, clearing of defensible space around homes, and installation of smoke detectors and new batteries.

Other grant recipients included the American Red Cross and Burn Institute Fire Safe Kids.

Learn more about our community support at [sdge.com/community](http://sdge.com/community).

Being prepared for wildfires is vital for regional safety as well as energy reliability. Here are some of the efforts that take place in the field as part of our **Community Fire Safety Program** to protect people, property and power lines.

- **Six fire coordinators train** firefighters, police and other first responders in energy safety. They also train SDG&E field crews in fire prevention and response, and participate in local, state and border fire safety groups.
- **Close collaboration** with incident commanders and first responders during a disaster results in a better coordinated response.
- **Wood-to-steel power pole conversions** - 2,300 transmission and 5,100 distribution poles to date in fire-prone areas - build the electric grid's resistance to wind and fire.
- **America's largest utility-owned weather network**, with 173 weather stations, captures data for analysis by three meteorologists. Their microclimate forecasts are factored into operational decisions.
- **Our weather team helped develop** new fire behavior modeling software for use starting this fall,



*During fire season, our helitanker is available on short notice to help put out fires. It can carry and drop up to 2,650 gallons of water - more than seven times the 360-gallon capacity of a typical firefighting helicopter.*

and the Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index, a web-based tool, previously.

- **We keep a helitanker on call** to drop water on wildfires, and up to eight fire engines and crews on standby for rapid response during fire season.
- **Maintaining clearances for 462,000 trees** growing near power lines helps prevent power outages and fires.

Watch a short video on the program at [sdge.com/CFSP-video](http://sdge.com/CFSP-video).

