

connected.....to safety

Pitching in to prepare for fires and other emergencies

Warmer, drier weather, drought conditions and vegetation growth have raised the risk of wildfires this year. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) crews responded to almost 3,100 fires that burned more than 53,000 acres in the first half of 2013, up from 2,100 fires and almost 18,300 acres in the first half of 2012.

We strive year-round to be prepared in case of fire. We work closely with first responders, give support to public safety groups such as volunteer fire stations, and advance

the protection of people, property and power lines through our **Community Fire Safety Program**. For example, we:

- **Forecast fire risk using one of the nation's top weather networks.** Staff meteorologists analyze data from 144 weather stations (projected to be 149 by year-end) for microclimate forecasts that help electric system operators deliver service safely and reliably.
- **Replaced 3,100 wood poles with steel** for electric lines in fire-prone areas.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

▶ Keep your kit up-to-date

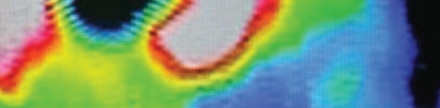
An emergency supply kit can help tide you over if disaster strikes. Start with basics such as three days' worth of food and water, customize it with must-have items for family members and pets, and periodically refresh it. Look for checklists at sdge.com/safety under "emergency preparedness."

- **Installed almost 200 smart switches** on electric circuits.
- **Use laser technology** to pinpoint potential problems such as sparking wires on power lines.
- **Keep up to eight fire engines** and crews on standby.
- **Renewed agreements to make our heli-tanker** available for water drops to fight wildfires.
- **Maintain 415,000 trees** to keep them clear of power lines throughout our 4,100-square-mile service area. ■

WEATHER WATCH: At SDG&E's weather center, senior meteorologists Steven Vanderburg, left, and Brian D'Agostino analyze atmospheric conditions, wind speeds, humidity and temperatures.



▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at sdge.com.



Allied forces: Fire team coordinates with first responders

Hazard duty

Every year, about 1,000 of SDG&E's 5,000 employees participate in four to six training exercises to hone their skills in emergency response.

"We arrange training exercises around emergencies we could potentially face, such as fires, gas explosions, earthquakes, energy shortages or cyber attacks," said Ken Fussell, manager of emergency services. "Our resources also include our Emergency Operations Center, a gas emergency center, an electric emergency center, department command centers and two mobile command centers for a thorough top-to-bottom response to all types of emergencies." ■

A cool escape

Take a break from summer heat and save on cooling costs.

Visit an air-conditioned Cool Zone. More than 100 Cool Zones are open to the public through Oct. 15, 2013. To find one near you, visit sdge.com/czonesites or call the County of San Diego at **1-800-510-2020** and press 6. ■



When multiple agencies join forces and resources to respond to a fire, coordination is a time-saver that helps protect people and property.

So when the incident commander at a fire needs SDG&E® crews to attend to gas or electric equipment, the commander turns to the SDG&E fire coordinator on the scene. Having a single point of contact per agency is part of the standardized, on-scene, all-hazards management approach known as the Incident Command System (ICS), which offers common ground for public and private agencies responding to an emergency.

"Our people are trained in ICS so we can represent the utility's concerns, such as power restoration, and assess the concerns of the first responders who are determining the best course of action for all," said Hal Mortier, SDG&E fire program manager.

On more routine days, Mortier and his four fellow fire coordinators:

- **Conduct gas and electric safety training** for firefighters, police departments and Community Emergency Response Teams.
- **Manage fire service contracts** for equipment and crews protecting utility facilities.



Hal Mortier manages SDG&E's fire coordination group and contracted services.

- **Participate in local, state and border groups** focused on fire prevention and response.
- **Maintain a database** to track causes of fires so staff engineers can seek improvements.

"We constantly monitor our equipment and practices to see if we can improve our processes or find new technologies to help prevent fires," added Mortier. ■

