

Satisfying summer demand for reliable power

Though June 20 marks the arrival of summer, there's no such thing as a summer vacation for the statewide power grid. As the world's eighth largest economy, California depends on reliable electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And according to the agency responsible for operating most of California's electric transmission system, this summer could be challenging in Southern California.

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) recently released its *2012 Summer Loads and Resources Assessment*, plus an update on plans to address potential reliability challenges in San Diego, Orange County and the Los Angeles Basin. The California ISO:

- Cautions that if both San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) units remain offline this summer, San Diego and portions of the Los Angeles Basin may face local reliability challenges.
- Emphasizes the need for energy-saving efforts in case of adverse conditions, such as extremely hot weather or a major loss of imported power.

We've taken steps to prepare for summer power peaks as part of our

Using less power pays off more when you do it on a Reduce Your Use day. Set up Reduce Your Use alerts at sdge.com/reduceuse. We'll text or email you before a Reduce Your Use day so you can save electricity and earn bill credits.

▶ Hot tips, cool cash

Visit sdge.com/summer for ideas on saving energy and money this summer, including:

- ▶ **Bill credits** for responding to Reduce Your Use alerts.
- ▶ **Videos** on summer energy-saving tips and the Summer Saver program.
- ▶ **Links** to rebate and incentive programs for energy upgrades at home and work.

ongoing long-term resource planning, including:

- Completing the 117-mile Sunrise Powerlink transmission project, which is expected to begin service this summer and provide access to more electricity resources.
- Lining up local "peaker" plants that can start generating electricity on short notice.
- Adding more renewable energy to the power supply.
- Expanding programs that help you save energy.

For summer energy tips, visit sdge.com/summer. ■



Tips to help you stay safe outside

Get bill discounts and upgraded appliances

Now's the time to see if you qualify for programs that can save you money. The annual update to income guidelines took effect on June 1 for:

- California Alternate Rates for Energy, which offers monthly bill savings of up to 35% or \$275 per year on average.
- Energy Savings Assistance Program, which offers upgraded appliances and home improvement services.

"Everyone was amazed at what we qualified to get for free," said Devon Banks of San Diego. Her family is saving money on water heating, lighting and more with Energy Savings Assistance



Saving energy is as easy as taking a shower for Madison, left, and Devon Banks.

Program upgrades such as a new clothes washer, insulation, door and showerhead.

Visit sdge.com/assistance to see if you qualify. ■

To play it safe when you're outside, avoid overhead power lines and other electric equipment. Stay at least 10 feet clear of any equipment that carries an electric current. Contact with electricity can shock or burn you or can even be fatal. Electricity always seeks a path to ground, and it's dangerous to get in the way. Your body can become that path if you touch an uninsulated wire or objects that conduct electricity, such as tools, ladders, scaffolds and even dirt or moisture that clings to non-metal objects, such as tree branches or kite strings.

Here are a few more outdoor safety rules to keep in mind:

- Don't release balloons, especially Mylar or metallic balloons, outside. They can get tangled in power lines and cause outages.
- Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- Keep off of power poles, transformer boxes and electric substation fences.
- Never try to remove anything caught in electric lines.
- Report fallen power lines, damaged electrical equipment or objects stuck in power lines by calling us at **1-800-411-7343**. Always assume a



When the party's over, don't put out the lights. Power outages can be caused when Mylar balloons, kites or other objects are released outdoors and get caught in power lines. For safety, dispose of Mylar balloons indoors.

downed electric line is live. Never touch it or any person, vehicle or animal in contact with it.

- At least two workdays before digging in your yard, call **811** to have underground utilities marked out - for free - so that you can work around them safely.

Look for more tips on how to use energy safely at sdge.com/safety. ■

