

EnergyUpdate

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

▶ Video highlights regional fire safety

Wildfires are a year-round risk in California. To learn about SDG&E's Community Fire Safety Program – including work with first responders and energy emergency preparedness – view the short video titled “Keeping the San Diego Region Safe” at sdge.com/CFSP-video.

Training, tools and teamwork improve emergency response

With the heightened threat of wildfires this year, everyone has a stake in emergency preparedness and response. We are doing our part to strengthen emergency services through ongoing training, high-tech tools and community alliances.

“We conduct regular training exercises involving virtually every group in the company to test and improve our response to various emergency scenarios,” said Dan Rice, director of emergency management and aviation services for SDG&E.

Activating center

Whenever energy service is affected by a serious or widespread event, such as a wildfire or earthquake, we activate our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate restoration of gas and electric service. Each emergency is unique, but in general:

- **EOC responders** work closely with public officials, law enforcement, fire departments and others to manage the incident, protect the public and keep people informed.
- **During a wildfire**, our fire coordinator typically serves as the single point of contact

representing the utility to the on-site incident commander responsible for marshaling the resources of multiple agencies.

- **A weather team** using state-of-the-art meteorological tools helps improve awareness of – and planning for – changing conditions such as high winds (see sdge.com/weather-team). For example, rapid-response crews may be staged in advance of threatening weather to protect public safety.
- **SDG&E's helitanker is available** as a regional firefighting asset for the eighth year due to continued collaboration with the County of San Diego.
- **Quicker, safer damage assessments** of electric and gas facilities may be conducted with the help of small unmanned aircraft systems in remote or difficult-to-reach areas.

For more information about how we support community safety and emergency preparedness, see articles on back page or visit sdge.com/community to learn more about community engagement programs.

Business tips and tools help speed disaster recovery

A disaster such as a fire or earthquake can disrupt your business without warning, sometimes at great cost. Being prepared can help you restore operations faster and limit your losses.

You'll find the basics outlined in our four-minute video, “Emergency Preparedness for Businesses,” at sdge.com/business/emergency. Steps you should take include: developing a written plan; training staff; practicing emergency procedures; stocking emergency supplies; maintaining defensible space; backing up and storing information securely off site; and periodically testing equipment such as electric generators and smoke detectors.

For tools you can use to develop or improve a disaster preparedness program for your business, visit ready.gov/business. You'll find an automated disaster recovery plan tool in the business continuity planning software, and a series of business continuity training videos.

Dan Rice directs emergency management and aviation services for SDG&E, including the Emergency Operations Center. He joined the utility after a 25-year career as a pilot in the U.S. Army and a decade of federal law enforcement experience.



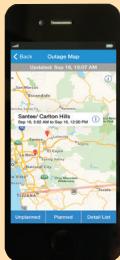
▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at sdge.com/business.



Fire safety gains ground

For outage info, tap app, map or Twitter

Save yourself a phone call and use online options instead for information on planned and unplanned power outages.



- Download our free mobile app at sdge.com/mobileapp to view our outage map on your mobile device.
- Our outage map at sdge.com/outages shows affected areas and estimated restoration times.
- Enter your service address in the look-up tool at sdge.com/outagestatus to check the status of state-ordered rotating outages called during regional power emergencies.
- Tweet us or follow us on Twitter @SDGE or twitter.com/sdge for news and alerts.

For regional safety and energy reliability, we take steps throughout the year to be prepared for wildfires. Here are some of the ways we protect people, property and power lines as part of our **Community Fire Safety Program**.

- **Five fire coordinators train** firefighters, police and other first responders in energy safety; train SDG&E field crews in fire prevention and response; and are active in local, state and border fire safety groups.
- **The helitanker** kept on call is used by fire agencies to drop water on wildfires. It can carry up to 2,650 gallons of water or fire suppressant – more than seven times the capacity of a typical firefighting helicopter – and get airborne in just 15 minutes.
- **The largest utility-owned weather network** in the U.S. supplies data from 170 weather stations. Microclimate forecasts by three meteorologists help guide operational decisions.

- **Replacing wood power poles with steel** builds the electric grid's resistance to wind and fire. To date, 2,300 transmission and 6,000 distribution poles have been replaced in higher-risk, fire-prone areas.
- **Five contract fire engines with crews** follow electric line workers in the back country to immediately put out any fires sparked by work on live wires.
- **New fire behavior modeling software** allows for better insight into potential fires and real-time hazards.
- **Maintaining clearances for 460,000 trees** growing near power lines helps prevent power outages and fires.



Wood-to-steel power pole conversions strengthen the electric grid's resistance to wind and fire.

Choose and use generators safely

A portable electric generator or small permanent standby generator can help keep your essential equipment running during a power outage. Before you run a generator for the first time, however, state law requires you to notify SDG&E. For safety tips and a video on choosing and using a generator, visit sdge.com/chooseagenerator.

Grants support community safety

More than 80 nonprofit groups received grants totaling more than \$700,000 at our annual **SAFE San Diego Initiative** awards presentation in July. These organizations support disaster preparedness, emergency response, education and assistance in the communities we serve. Here are a few examples.

Community Emergency Response Teams and Fire Safe Councils – 62 in all – received \$155,000 to help 2,498 active volunteers protect more than 50,252 buildings and 5,515 acres via 135 defensible space projects and more than 475 drills and workshops.

California Fire Foundation Firefighters on Your Side program provides traditionally underserved

communities with fire safety materials such as brochures, posters and videos in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Tagalog, as well as in English.

The American Red Cross helps with individual and family preparedness, business continuity, and disaster relief.

The Intertribal Long-term Recovery Foundation serves people living on tribal lands. Programs include safety outreach, clearing of defensible space around homes, and installation of smoke detectors and new batteries.

