

connected to safety

Stepping up emergency preparedness in case of fire

Dry conditions statewide have increased the risk of major wildfires, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE crews have responded to about twice as many fires this year as last year.

To help protect yourself and your home, look for fire safety tips posted online by CAL FIRE at fire.ca.gov and by us at sdge.com/safety. You'll also find information about our **Community Fire Safety Program**.

We work year-round to help keep people, property and power lines safe in case of wildfires. For example:

- **Our 128 weather stations** form one of the nation's largest weather networks, monitoring fire risks such as wind speed.
- **New laser technology** helps us scan overhead power lines to pinpoint and prevent potential problems, such as outages or sparking wires.



▶ What's in your kit?

Three days' worth of food and water is a good start on an emergency kit, but everyone's needs are different. Prescription medications, eyeglasses, and special items for infants and pets are just a few considerations for customizing your kit. Learn the basics in our video, **"Emergency Preparedness: Make a Kit and a Plan,"** at sdge.com/safety.

- **Steel poles stand** where more than 2,000 wood poles used to carry electric lines in fire-prone areas.
- **Smart switches** on more than 160 electric circuits improve safety and reliability.
- **We maintain clearance** between power lines and about 400,000 trees, and clear brush around power poles in high-risk areas. ■

Three basic ways to prepare for fire and other emergencies are to make a plan, make an emergency kit and keep informed. Get details at sdge.com/safety.

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



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Facebook gives you another way to connect with us and learn more about energy matters that may interest you, such as:

- Ways we can help you save energy and money.
- Plug-in electric vehicles and the special rates available.
- Community events such as environmental fairs and lighting exchanges. ■

Find Cool Zones

Seniors and people with disabilities can stay cool and reduce air-conditioning costs on hot summer days by visiting Cool Zones. We've worked with the County of San Diego to designate public Cool Zone destinations from June 22 to Oct. 15. Learn more at sdge.com/coolzones or call **1-800-510-2020** and press "6." ■



New high-tech tools enhance emergency response capabilities

Remaining calm in a crisis is part of the job for Ken Fussell, manager of emergency services for SDG&E®. Though it seems to come naturally to him, he figures it's because he's had plenty of practice. So has his team in the Emergency Response and Business Resumption Department and staff from 35 areas who undergo quarterly training exercises and pitch in whenever SDG&E activates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

“We're prepared to respond effectively to any type of emergency.”

— Ken Fussell

The EOC serves as a coordination center during serious or widespread events that affect gas or electric service. Emergency response team members coordinate service restoration and work with public officials, law enforcement, fire departments and others to contain the crisis, protect the public and coordinate communications.

Now new tools bring better communications capabilities to staff working in the field under difficult conditions. In April 2012, SDG&E rolled out two mobile



Ken Fussell manages emergency services for SDG&E, including the Emergency Operations Center and the new mobile emergency command centers.

emergency command centers and two satellite communication systems that are like movable phone booths. A third mobile command unit is on the way.

In addition to being a new emergency resource for SDG&E, the mobile equipment is available for use by city, county, state and other agencies, such as the American Red Cross, in times of community need.

For more information about emergency preparedness, visit sdge.com/safety. ■

