

energynotes

connected.....to your safety

Save lives, protect property: Be prepared for emergencies

The way you respond to an emergency could save your life, and your chances are better if you've got a plan than if you wing it.

It's a point that Jackie McHugh, SDG&E's fire preparedness program manager, makes at every opportunity, whether she's speaking to community groups and local businesses, or encouraging neighbors and friends to make emergency plans for their families.

The voice of experience

"You need a plan whether you're responding to a regional event, like a

wildfire or earthquake, or your house is on fire," said McHugh, who vividly recalls the night her childhood home burned down. The 6-year-old ran out to the street with her parents, seven siblings, the family dog and a caged bird that cold November night in Chicago. They lost the house and almost everything in it, but they were alive.

"When firefighters or police tell you to evacuate, go," she said. "It's not worth risking your life to stay behind for stuff."

Helpful checklists

To make it easier for you to be

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▶ Refresh your emergency kit

Emergency supplies only do you good if they're still usable when you need them. Our emergency supply kit checklist can serve as a guide when you're ready to refresh and restock food, water, medications and other essentials for family members and pets. Visit sdge.com/emergency-checklists.

prepared, we recently updated our emergency checklists, which McHugh uses both on and off the job. Her home in Jamul, a high-risk fire area, also reflects her dedication to safety, with fire-resistant roofing, boxed-in eaves, defensible space, emergency supplies and more improvements on her "to-do" list.

Plan for safety with tips, videos and checklists at sdge.com/emergency.

Whether she's on or off the job, emergency preparedness is a way of life for Jackie McHugh, SDG&E's fire preparedness program manager. She's shown here with her emergency supplies at home. For guidelines on stocking your own emergency supplies, visit sdge.com/emergency-checklists.



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



Helping communities stay safe

Telltale signs warn of faulty wiring

To help prevent fires, have a licensed qualified electrician inspect your home's wiring, lighting or electric equipment if you notice warning signs such as:

- **Blown fuses** that need to be replaced frequently.
- **Tripped circuit breakers** that must be repeatedly reset.
- **A tingling feeling** (shock) when you touch an electric appliance or other metal objects.
- **Wall outlets or switch plates** that are discolored, warm to the touch or emitting sparks.
- **Burning or rubbery odors** from an appliance.
- **Flickering or dimming lights**, which could mean a short in the wiring, arcing or an overloaded electric system.

The National Fire Protection Association offers more information about preventing electrical fires at nfpa.org/electricalfires. For more electric safety tips, visit our website at sdge.com/electricsafety.



Leave wiring jobs in the hands of a pro.

Extreme drought, warmer weather and drier vegetation are contributing to what federal, state and local officials say could be California's worst fire season ever. Our year-round efforts to be prepared for wildfires are focused on protecting people, property and power lines. As part of our **Community Fire Safety Program** – and related actions – we:

- **Collaborate closely** with incident commanders and first responders for coordinated responses to emergencies, now aided by the Next Generation Incident Command System for access to real-time disaster response information.
- **Help support public safety groups**, such as volunteer fire stations, the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association, American Red Cross, The Burn Institute and the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services.
- **Monitor hazardous weather conditions** such as high winds via 149 weather stations, the largest utility weather network in the U.S., to factor into operational decisions.
- **Tap the expertise of our meteorologists**, who have developed tools to better predict fire risk.



Replacing wood power poles with steel poles in fire-prone areas is part of our Community Fire Safety Program. In addition, 61% of our power lines – 10,000 miles – are underground, the highest undergrounding percentage in the state and three times the national average.

- **Increased total wood-to-steel pole replacements** to 3,700 for electric lines in fire-prone areas.
- **Equipped our mobile emergency command centers** and new satellite communication systems with the latest technology in field command communication.
- **Extended agreements for our heli-tanker** to help fight wildfires and keep up to eight fire engines and crews on standby.
- **Maintain 450,000 trees** to keep them clear of power lines throughout our 4,100-square-mile service area.

