



connected..... to your safety

## Plan how your business can recover faster after a disaster

**F**ires, earthquakes and other disasters can disrupt your business operations without warning, sometimes at great cost. Being prepared helps you get back on track as fast as possible.

**For an overview of the basics,** watch our four-minute video, "Emergency Preparedness for Businesses," at [sdge.com/business/emergency](http://sdge.com/business/emergency).

**For five steps to preparedness** and online tools, visit [ready.gov/business](http://ready.gov/business).

- 1 Start with the business owner's support of an emergency preparedness program.
- 2 Plan responses for different emergencies, including safe evacuation of staff and visitors, relocation of vital operations, access to backed-up electronic data, and storage of three days' worth of food, water and supplies in case people have to stay.
- 3 Launch the program companywide by communicating written plans and training staff.

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- 4 Test the plan to make sure everyone knows what to do and that equipment works, such as fire alarms and back-up generators.
  - 5 Improve your program by reviewing lessons learned after actual incidents and staying up-to-date on best practices in your field. ■

## Sharing fire safety facts and experience

When Jackie McHugh conducts emergency safety training for local businesses, she speaks from experience on and off the job. SDG&E's fire preparedness program manager still recalls the urgent pounding on the door of her childhood home above a music store as a man yelled, "Your house is on fire!" At the age of 6, she found herself standing out on the street with her parents, seven

siblings, the family dog and a caged bird one cold November night on the south side of Chicago. Looters stole what was left and the family had to split up until they could afford a house big enough for all of them, but they were alive.

### Life's worth more than stuff

She shares that lesson at every

opportunity: "When firefighters or police tell you to evacuate, go. It's not worth risking your life to stay behind for stuff. You need to think about the people who are worried about whether you make it out alive."

Whether she's speaking to business and community groups, or encouraging friends to make emergency plans for their families, McHugh treats emergency preparedness as a way of life.

### Be prepared

"Everyone needs a plan because anything can happen," McHugh said.

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◀ *Emergency preparedness is a way of life on and off the job for Jackie McHugh, SDG&E's fire preparedness program manager, who provides safety training for local businesses. Her favorite tool for clearing the defensible space around her home is her heavy-duty combination rake and hoe used in wildfire suppression.*





## Generator safety starts with you

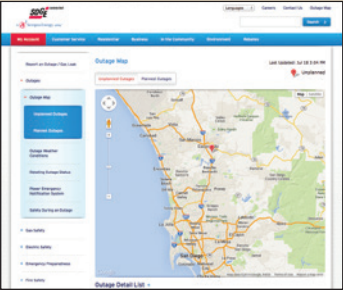
A portable electric generator or a small permanent standby generator can help keep your essential equipment running during a power outage. Before operating a generator for the first time, however, state law requires you to notify SDG&E®. For tips on choosing and using a generator safely, visit [sdge.com/chooseagenerator](http://sdge.com/chooseagenerator). ■

## Find outage updates online

Here are four online options you can use to get information about local power outages and estimated restoration times.

**Look-up tool:** In case of local power emergencies, the state may order rotating outages in our service area. Check the status at [sdge.com/outagestatus](http://sdge.com/outagestatus) and enter your service address in the look-up tool.

**Map:** The outage map at [sdge.com/outages](http://sdge.com/outages) shows affected areas and estimated restoration times.



**Mobile app:** Download our free app at [sdge.com/mobileapps](http://sdge.com/mobileapps) to view the outage map on your mobile device.

**Twitter @SDGE:** Follow us on Twitter @SDGE or [twitter.com/sdge](https://twitter.com/sdge) for news, alerts and helpful information, or to tweet us your questions and comments. ■

# Protecting community safety

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** on staff who have



*Replacing wood power poles with steel poles in fire-prone areas is part of our Community Fire Safety Program.*

- developed tools to better predict fire risk.
- **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. ■

## Sharing fire safety facts and experience *continued*

"It doesn't even have to be a regional event. If your house or business is on fire, do you have an evacuation route and an alternate route? Do you have an out-of-area phone number to call if local lines are busy and you need to locate family members? Do you regularly replace the food and water in your emergency supply kit? We recently updated our emergency checklists at [sdge.com/emergency-checklists](http://sdge.com/emergency-checklists) so it's easier to make a plan."

She's used the checklists at seminars, events, neighborhood chats, and even a camping trip with friends.

McHugh's home in Jamul, a high-risk fire area, also reflects her dedication to safety, with fire-resistant roofing, boxed-in eaves, defensible space, an emergency supply kit and more improvements on her "to-do" list.

To schedule emergency safety training or a "lunch-and-learn" seminar for your employees, contact Jackie McHugh at 858-654-1771 or [JMcHugh@semprautilities.com](mailto:JMcHugh@semprautilities.com). ■

