

EnergyUpdate

connected to safety

Preparation pays in faster business recovery after a disaster

Natural and manmade disasters can disrupt your business without warning, yet you can improve the odds of recovery by being prepared for such emergencies in the first place.

Up to 40% of businesses that have been hit by a disaster never reopen, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

Resources at the ready

You can help your business survive by using the resources available at ready.gov/business. These include guidelines for emergency response

planning, tools for developing or updating your business continuity plan, information on crisis communications, testing and training exercises, and other materials offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Basic steps for preparing your business include:

- Writing an emergency response plan that covers potential needs before, during, and after a disaster, such as safe evacuation of workers and visitors, communications with staff and suppliers, and relocation of critical operations.

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- Backing up important data, storing it off-site or remotely and knowing how to access it in case on-site computers, servers and storage facilities are damaged.
- Keeping emergency supplies in stock, such as three days' worth of food and water, in case you and your employees need to stay put.
- Periodically practicing emergency procedures with employees to review roles and responsibilities, and improve the plan. ■

Pitching in for community safety in case of fire

Warmer, drier weather, drought conditions and vegetation growth have raised the risk of wildfires this year. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) crews responded to almost 3,100 fires that burned more than 53,000 acres in the first half of

2013, up from 2,100 fires and almost 18,300 acres in the first half of 2012.

We strive year-round to be prepared in case of fire. We work closely with first responders, give support to public safety groups such as volunteer fire stations, and advance the protection of people, property

and power lines through our **Community Fire Safety Program**. For example, we:

- **Forecast fire risk using one of the nation's top weather networks.** Staff meteorologists analyze data from 144 weather stations (projected to be 149 by year-end) for microclimate forecasts that help electric system operators deliver service safely and reliably.
- **Replaced 3,100 wood poles with steel** for electric lines in fire-prone areas.
- **Installed almost 200 smart switches** on electric circuits.

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▶ At SDG&E's weather center, senior meteorologists Steven Vanderburg, left, and Brian D'Agostino analyze atmospheric conditions, wind speeds, humidity and temperatures. They forecast fire risk as part of our Community Fire Safety Program.

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



Choosing and using a generator

If you have a home-based or small business, a portable electric generator or a small permanent standby generator can help keep essential equipment running during a power outage. If you plan to operate a portable or standby generator, state law requires you to notify SDG&E prior to running it for the first time. You'll find a brief overview of things to consider when buying a generator plus safety tips at sdge.com/choosegenerator. ■

Four ways to get outage updates

Try one of these online options when you want information about power outages and estimated restoration times in our service area.

Look-up tool: During regional power emergencies, the state may order rotating outages. To check the status, visit sdge.com/outagestatus and enter your service address in the look-up tool.

Map: See the outage map at sdge.com/outages for affected areas and estimated restoration times.

Mobile app: View the outage map on your mobile device by downloading our free app at sdge.com/mobileapps.

Twitter @SDGE: Follow us on Twitter for up-to-date news and alerts, as well as helpful information, @SDGE or twitter.com/sdge. ■

Allied forces: Fire team coordinates with first responders

When multiple agencies join forces and resources to respond to a fire, coordination is a time-saver that helps protect people and property.

So when the incident commander at a fire needs SDG&E® crews to attend to gas or electric equipment, the commander turns to the SDG&E fire coordinator on the scene. Having a single point of contact per agency is part of the standardized, on-scene, all-hazards management approach known as the Incident Command System (ICS), which offers common ground for public and private agencies responding to an emergency.

“Our people are trained in ICS so we can represent the utility’s concerns, such as power restoration, and vet the concerns of the first responders who are determining the best course of action for all,” said Hal Mortier, SDG&E fire program manager.

On more routine days, Mortier and his three fellow fire coordinators:

- **Conduct gas and electric safety training** for firefighters, police departments and Community Emergency Response Teams.
- **Manage fire service contracts** for equipment and crews protecting utility facilities.
- **Participate in local, state and border groups** focused on fire prevention and response.



Hal Mortier manages SDG&E’s fire coordination group and contracted services such as an industrial fire brigade to protect utility facilities. Previously, he served as a division chief in wildland fire for the U.S. Forest Service and an incident commander managing emergency responses involving wildfires.

- **Maintain a database** to track causes of fires so staff engineers can seek improvements.

“We constantly monitor our equipment and practices to see if we can improve our processes or find new technologies to help prevent fires,” added Mortier. ■

Pitching in for community safety

Continued from front

- **Use laser technology** to pinpoint potential problems such as sparking wires on overhead power lines.
- **Keep up to eight fire engines** and crews on standby.
- **Renewed agreements to make our heli-tanker** available for water drops to fight wildfires.
- **Maintain 415,000 trees** to keep them clear of power lines throughout our 4,100-square-mile service area. ■

