energynotes

Ready to weather El Niño

ou've probably heard a lot lately about how important it is to be prepared for El Niño storms this winter, SDG&E® has been taking extra steps to get ready too.

- SDG&E's meteorology team is developing a model to better forecast how storms may affect our energy delivery systems. This helps us put the right number of crews in the right places to prevent or fix problems.
- At each regional field office, SDG&E has staged emergency equipment for a quick response and stockpiled extra equipment, such as fuses, power poles, sand, sandbags and plastic sheeting. Each field office is also prepared to remove floodwater from underground facilities.
- Crews are conducting extra inspections of our electric and gas systems to minimize damage and lessen outages during storms.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

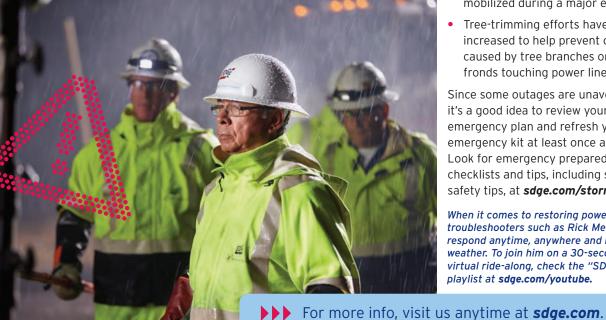
Download app for outage map

Get information about power outages in your area by downloading our app for your mobile device at sdge.com/mobileapp. Tap the outage map button for updates on planned and unplanned outages, or the bill alerts button to sign up for outage notifications in My Account. You can also use the app to report an outage.

- Extra field crews, including local contractors, are ready to be mobilized during a major event.
- Tree-trimming efforts have been increased to help prevent outages caused by tree branches or palm fronds touching power lines.

Since some outages are unavoidable, it's a good idea to review your emergency plan and refresh your emergency kit at least once a year. Look for emergency preparedness checklists and tips, including storm safety tips, at **sdge.com/stormprep.**

When it comes to restoring power, troubleshooters such as Rick Mendoza respond anytime, anywhere and in any weather. To join him on a 30-second virtual ride-along, check the "SDG&Me" playlist at sdge.com/youtube.





Plan for safety in case of a gas leak

When a natural gas appliance, meter or pipeline is damaged, leaking gas could cause a fire, explosion, property damage or serious injury. For safety, learn the signs of a gas leak and what to do at **sdge.com/gasleak**.

For example, you may:

- Look for a damaged connector or exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood, mudslide or other disaster.
- Listen for a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near an appliance or pipeline.
- Smell the distinctive odor
 we add to natural gas. (Not
 everyone is able to smell it, and
 the odor may fade or be masked
 by other odors.)

If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and, from a safe location, call SDG&E at 1-800-411-7343 or call 911. Natural gas is flammable, so don't do anything that could create a spark, such as lighting a match, candle or cigarette, or turning a light switch, engine or electric device on or off.

Six reasons why natural gas helps energize San Diego

Your home's main energy source is probably electricity, yet natural gas is an essential part of the mix for most local households. Here are six reasons why natural gas helps fuel San Diego.

Safe. People across the U.S. use natural gas safely every day in their homes and businesses.

Reliable. Steady service comes with more than 130 years of experience.

Abundant. The U.S. Energy
Information Administration
estimates that the U.S. has
enough natural gas to meet its
energy needs for the next 100 years.

Affordable. Appliances that run on natural gas typically cost less to use than electric models, such as water heaters, furnaces, ranges and clothes dryers.

Clean. Natural gas is one of the cleanest fuels available today. It reduces emissions up to 65% compared with coal and 25% compared with oil.



For home cooking and other everyday uses, natural gas can help you save money.

Supports renewables. Gas-fired power plants generate approximately 45% of the electricity used locally. This energy source is essential to bridge the gap when solar, wind and other renewable energy sources can't meet demand.

For more information and a short video on natural gas use in your home, visit **sdge.com/gasbenefits.**

