



**California Wildfires *Situation Report # 2*  
October 23, 2007 (3:00 PM EDT)**

**Highlights:**

- As of 12:53pm EDT October 23, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has reported that there have been a total of 16 wildfires burning more than 350,000 acres in Southern California since October 20. Three of the 16 fires have been 100 percent contained. The fires have destroyed homes, businesses, and property from south of San Diego up to north of Los Angeles. The fires are fueled by 18 months of drought in the area and the Santa Ana winds, which gusted to 70 mph yesterday (October 22). As of 11:00 am EDT, there are 43,500 customers without power in California due to the fires and high winds. This represents less than 1 percent of the total customers in California. However, the fires present an imminent danger to the bulk power system and a much larger number of customers may be impacted if additional transmission lines are lost.

**California Electricity Outages by Utility**

Electricity		
Impacted Utility	Electric Customer Outages	% Customers Without Power
San Diego Gas & Electric	25,000	1.9%
Southern California Edison	15,000	0.3%
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	3,500	0.2%
<b>CALIFORNIA TOTAL:</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

Total state and utility customers are based on 2006 EIA Customer Data.

Note: due to a large number of service providers, including investor owned utilities and cooperatives, the number of customer outages reported may not be comprehensive.

**Sources:**

San Diego Gas and Electric as of 1:30pm EDT (Oct 23), [http://www.sdge.com/news/today\\_electrical\\_situation.shtml](http://www.sdge.com/news/today_electrical_situation.shtml)

Southern California Edison as of 9:00am EDT (Oct. 23), <http://www.sce.com/safety/events/windstorm.htm>

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as of 4:00pm EDT (Oct. 22), <http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/1475/179455/>

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as of 12:53pm EDT (Oct 23), <http://www.fire.ca.gov/index.php#>

- The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CA-ISO) reported yesterday (October 22) that fires forced a trip of the Pacific DC Intertie, which transmits electric power between the Pacific Northwest down through California and into Los Angeles. The Southwest Powerlink, a 500 kV transmission line running from Arizona to San Diego, was de-energized yesterday due to the fires. Both of these lines are still out of service. At 2:00pm EDT, CA-ISO stated that the Southwest Powerlink may be returning to service by the end of today. Additionally, at 5pm EDT yesterday, two 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, the SONGS Viejo and SONGS Serrano, were both temporarily knocked out of service by fires burning directly underneath of them.
- At 2:00pm EDT (October 23), CA-ISO reported that the San Onofre nuclear generating station was shut down on October 21 and is still offline.



## **U.S. Department of Energy Emergency Support Function 12**

- At 11:00am EDT (October 23), CA-ISO reported that a fire took out all lines at the Miguel substation. The fire burned through the area and workers were able to inspect the damage at the substation. At 2:00pm EDT today, CA-ISO stated that the 500 kV Southwest Powerlink line was undamaged, however the four 230 kV transmission lines were damaged.
- CA-ISO has declared Restricted Maintenance Operations and issued a Transmission Emergency around 9:00am EDT in Southern California for all day today (October 23). CA-ISO and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) jointly called for voluntary conservation measures in San Diego.
- At 1:30pm EDT October 23, SDG&E reports there are a significant number of 500, 230, and 138 kV transmission lines no longer in service due to the wildfires around Miguel Mountain and Ranch Santa Fe. SDG&E has several hundred poles which have been damaged or destroyed by the fires. Seven hundred fifty SDG&E employees and 80 contractors are in the field working to restore power but fires are hampering their ability to get into the impacted areas. The utility is also securing mutual assistance crews and materials from utilities in the Western region. SDG&E does not have an estimated timeline for power restoration, due to the unpredictable nature of the fire. SDG&E also reports that approximately 1,600 customers are without natural gas service.
- As of 9:00am EDT October 23, Southern California Edison (SCE) reported on its website that all of its crews are in the field working to restore power to those affected by the wildfires. The crews are standing by waiting for fire officials to allow them to enter areas affected by the fire to conduct a damage assessment so that a timeline of service restoration can be put together. SCE is estimating that some customers could be without power for 24 hours or longer.
- The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) reported that the high winds, which have fueled the fires, have knocked down power lines during the weekend and yesterday (October 22). Additionally, fires are burning near LADWP electric facilities in the Santa Clarita Valley. Currently, crews are working to restore those customers who are still without power.

### **ESF 12 Actions:**

- ESF-12 personnel are staffing the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) as of 11:00am EDT today. ESF-12 staff have been deployed and are en route to the FEMA Region IX Joint Field Office (JFO) in Pasadena, CA.