



U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Support Function 12

California Wildfires Situation Report # 4
October 24, 2007 (3:00 PM EDT)

Highlights:

- As of 12:45pm EDT October 24, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has reported that there are currently 17 active wildfires which have burned more than 430,000 acres in Southern California since October 20. CAL FIRE reports that 8 of these fires (6 still active) are in San Diego County and have burned over 310,000 acres, representing 72 percent of the total acres burned. Five of the 22 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.
As of 1:30pm EDT, there are 25,235 customers without power in California due to the fires and high winds. This is a decrease from the 28,750 customers without power reported this morning (see Situation Report #3) and represents less than 1 percent of the total customers in California. San Diego Gas and Electric said it expects its outage numbers to increase as customers return to their homes and notify the utility they are without power. 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

Table with 3 columns: Impacted Utility, Electric Customer Outages, % Customers Without Power. Rows include San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and CALIFORNIA TOTAL.

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 from DOE Communications as of 1:30pm EDT (Oct 24)

Southern California Edison from DOE Communications as of 1:30pm EDT (Oct. 24)

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from DOE Communication as of 8:30am EDT (Oct. 24)

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as of 12:45pm EDT (Oct 24), http://www.fire.ca.gov/index.php

- The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CA-ISO) reported at 10:00am today (October 24) three 230 kV lines which go south out of SONGS to San Luis Rey relayed twice overnight. At 12:20pm, CA-ISO reported that one of these lines, the SONGS – San Luis Rey line, remains out of service. On Monday (October 22) 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 on Monday due to the fires. Both of these lines are still



U.S. Department of Energy Emergency Support Function 12

out of service. At 8:00pm EDT yesterday (October 23), CA-ISO stated that the Southwest Powerlink will not return to service until Thursday evening (October 25) or Friday (October 26). Additionally, at 5pm EDT Monday, 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 11:00am EDT (October 24) NERC reported that the San Onofre nuclear generating unit is ready to return to service but remains out of service due to concerns with transmission lines.** At 6:35am EDT, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center reported that they are entering a monitoring phase for the San Onofre nuclear generating station due to the fires in southern California. The unit was shut down for normal maintenance on Sunday (October 21) and there is no emergency on site at this time.
- At 10:00am (October 24), CA-ISO reported that the four 230 KV transmission lines going north out of the Miguel substation were back in service. At 11:00am EDT yesterday (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 yesterday, CA-ISO stated that the 500 kV Southwest Powerlink line coming out of the substation was undamaged, however the four 230 kV transmission lines at the substation were damaged.
- At 9:40am this morning (October 24), CA-ISO issued a Transmission Emergency and declared Restricted Maintenance Operations for Southern California effective all day. At 11:59pm last night (October 23) CA-ISO cancelled the Restricted Maintenance Operations and Transmission Emergency for Southern California. **CA-ISO reported at 12:20pm that Southern California generation has improved today. This was a result of three gas turbines returning to service after being inoperable from fire related issues.** CA-ISO and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) are still jointly calling for voluntary conservation measures in San Diego.
- **At 1:30pm EDT, SDG&E said they were informed by CA-ISO to stand by for possible load curtailments and may be islanded. Multiple transmission lines have been knocked out of service and only one line is currently connected to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). They are prepared to operate as an island and use internal generation to provide power to their customers.** There is a fire burning under their transmission lines in Camp Pendleton and those lines are now out of service. There are also several transmission lines which were knocked out of service by the wildfires around Miguel Mountain and Ranch Santa Fe. Additionally, the utility said it expects its outage numbers to increase as customers return to their homes and notify the utility they are without power. SDG&E anticipates that these wildfires will cause extensive damage resulting in greater restoration than experienced by the replacement of more than 3,000 poles after the Cedar Fires of 2003. Seven hundred fifty SDG&E employees and 80 contractors are in the field working on the restoration 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 there are 1,608 customers without natural gas service, many of which are in the Rancho Bernard and other areas that have been evacuated.



U.S. Department of Energy Emergency Support Function 12

- As of 1:30pm EDT October 23, Southern California Edison (SCE) reports that its crews are in the field working to restore power to those affected by the wildfires. In the affected areas where work is permitted, crews have reported 309 locations with wires down, over 363 poles requiring replacement, and 56 transformers needing repairs. SCE is estimating that some customers could be without power for 24 hours or longer.
- The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) reported this morning (October 24) at 8:30am that they have restored power to all their customers who were without power because of the fires and high winds.

ESF 12 Actions:

- ESF-12 personnel are staffing the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) and the FEMA Region IX Joint Field Office (JFO) in Pasadena, CA.