



U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Support Function 12

California Wildfires Situation Report # 5
October 25, 2007 (10:30 AM EDT)

http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency_sit_rpt.aspx

Highlights:

- As of 10:55pm EDT October 24, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has reported 23 total wildfires that have burned more than 460,000 acres in Southern California since October 20. Currently, there are 10 active wildfires and 13 fires have been 100 percent contained. Of the 10 active fires, five are within close proximity to major transmission lines and could potentially threaten the service territory. The fires have destroyed homes, businesses, and property from south of San Diego up to north of Los Angeles.
As of 9:00am EDT (October 25), there are 22,940 customers without power in California due to the fires and high winds. This is a decrease from the 25,235 customers without power reported yesterday afternoon (see Situation Report #4) and represents less than 1 percent of the total customers in California. San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) stated that the utility anticipates that outage numbers will increase as customers return to their homes and notify the utility they are without power.

California Electricity Outages by Utility

Table with 3 columns: Impacted Utility, Electric Customer Outages, % Customers Without Power. Rows include San Diego Gas & Electric (21,000 outages, 1.6% without power), Southern California Edison (1,940 outages, 0.0% without power), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (0 outages, 0.0% without power), and CALIFORNIA TOTAL (22,940 outages, 0.2% without power).

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 communication at 9:00am EDT (Oct 25) http://sdge.com/fires/utilityUpdate.shtml

Southern California Edison as of 10:00pm EDT (Oct. 24) http://www.sce.com/safety/events/windstorm.htm

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 10:55pm EDT (Oct 24), http://www.fire.ca.gov/index.php

- The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CA-ISO) reported at 7:00pm EDT yesterday that all of the 230 kilovolt (kV) and 500 kV lines which were affected by the fires, with the exception of one, are back in service. According to CA-ISO, all of the SONGS 230kV lines are back in service with the exception of the SONGS – San Luis Rey line, which has been in and out multiple times over the last 24 hours. The SONGS – San Luis Rey line is on standby waiting until the fire situation is more predictable prior to returning to service.



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- At 4:00pm EDT yesterday (October 24), the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) reported that the Pacific DC Intertie, which transmits electricity between the Pacific Northwest down through California and into Los Angeles is back in service. On Monday (October 22) fires forced a trip of the Pacific DC Intertie. The Southwest Power Link, a 500 kV transmission line running from Arizona to San Diego, returned to service at 5:30pm EDT yesterday, according to CA-ISO. The Power Link was de-energized on Monday due to the fires.
- At 4:00pm EDT yesterday (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 the electric grid. 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 EDT yesterday (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 Tuesday (October 23), CA-ISO reported that a fire took out all lines at the Miguel substation. At 2:00pm EDT Tuesday, CA-ISO stated that the 500 kV Southwest Power Link line coming out of the substation was undamaged, however the four 230 kV transmission lines at the substation were damaged.
- Last night at 7:40pm EDT (October 24), CA-ISO issued a Transmission Emergency and declared Restricted Maintenance Operations for Southern California effective all day today, October 25. CA-ISO and SDG&E are still jointly calling for voluntary conservation measures in San Diego.
- At 9:00am EDT, SDG&E said that the transmission tie lines which connect their service territory to the SONGS lines are currently out of service. However, SDG&E is connected to the Southwest Power Link. In addition, Mexico's Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has provided assistance and produced additional power to be exported to make up for the deficiencies in SDG&E power generation. Yesterday afternoon, SDG&E was informed by CA-ISO to stand by for possible load curtailments and that the utility may be islanded. Multiple transmission lines were knocked out of service and only one line was connected to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). SDG&E was prepared to operate as an island and use internal generation to provide efficient power to its customers. Although a report yesterday from Reuters stated that SDG&E islanded, a NERC representative stated that this islanding did not occur.
- SDG&E is also securing mutual assistance crews and materials from surrounding utilities in the Western region, including Pacific Gas & Electric and the Bonneville Power Administration. The fires throughout the service territory are hampering SDG&E's ability to do a full assessment of damage to their system. No estimated timeline for power restoration.
- SDG&E also reports that as of 9:00am EDT, there are 1,608 customers without natural gas service, many of which are in the Rancho Bernard and other areas that have been evacuated.
- As of 10:00pm EDT yesterday (October 24), Southern California Edison (SCE) reported that it was granted limited access to some areas in the San Bernardino Mountains to conduct



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inspections of its infrastructure affected by the fires. The utility expects to initiate its damage assessment today (October 25). SCE stated that it could be days or perhaps weeks before all repairs to electrical infrastructure are completed in the hardest hit areas. SCE 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 450 locations with wires down, over 200 poles needing replacements, and 105 transformers damaged which have all been replaced.

- The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) reported yesterday morning (October 24) at 8:30am EDT that they have restored power to all customers impacted by 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.
- DOE continues to work closely with CA-ISO, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and NERC to ensure that the situation report contains the most accurate data possible