



U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Support Function 12

California Wildfires Situation Report # 6
October 25, 2007 (3:00 PM EDT)

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

Highlights:

- As of 1:34pm EDT October 25, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has reported 23 total wildfires that have burned almost 480,000 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 2:35pm EDT (October 25), there are 24,007 customers without power in California due to the fires and high winds. This is an increase from the 22,940 customers without power reported this morning (see Situation Report #5) 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 (23,017 outages, 1.7% without power), Southern California Edison (990 outages, 0.0% without power), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (0 outages, 0.0% without power), and CALIFORNIA TOTAL (24,007 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 2:35pm EDT (Oct 25) http://sdge.com/fires/utilityUpdate.shtml

Southern California Edison as of 10:30am EDT (Oct. 25) 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 1:34pm EDT (Oct 25), http://www.fire.ca.gov/index.php

- The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CA-ISO) reported at 10:40am EDT that three "South of SONGS (San Onofre Nuclear Generation System)" 230 kV lines to San Luis Rey are currently out of service because of fires. When the fire is no longer a concern to this transmission corridor then the San Onofre nuclear generating unit may be allowed to commence start-up. The unit is in hot standby and remains ready to return to service but is out of service due to concerns with the electric grid. The unit was shut down for normal maintenance on Sunday



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(October 21). CA-ISO states that there are two additional 230 kV lines going south and four lines feeding the north from SONGS which are in service.

- 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 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 2:30pm EDT, SDG&E said that they hope to have most of their transmission system and substations which were affected by the fires back in service within the next 24 to 48 hours. The Southwest Power Link was re-energized and placed back into service but the transmission tie lines which connect the SDG&E service territory to the 230 kV SONGS lines are still out of service. SDG&E crews are washing the insulators; however fires are still in the area. CA-ISO will determine when these lines can come back into service. 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 this morning (October 25) that this islanding did not occur.
- SDG&E has reported that power has been restored to the community of Forest Ridge and the San Diego Wild Animal Park. To continue the restoration, 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. There is no estimated timeline for power restoration.
- SDG&E also reports that as of 1:30pm EDT, there are 1,644 customers without natural gas service. The utility have repressurized the natural gas pipelines serving the community of



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Rancho Bernardo. SDG&E crews are in position to respond to customers and re-light house to house when it is safe for customers to return to their homes.

- As of 10:00am EDT (October 25), Southern California Edison (SCE) reported that it was granted limited access to some areas in the San Bernardino Mountains to conduct 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 110 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.