



U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Support Function 12

California Wildfires Situation Report # 1
October 23, 2007 (10:30 AM EDT)

Highlights:

- Over a dozen wildfires have burned more than 200,000 acres in Southern California since this weekend (October 20-21). 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 8:30 am EDT, there are 40,492 customers without power in California due to the fires and high winds. This represents less than 1 percent of the total customers in California.

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 as of 8:30 am EDT, http://www.sdge.com/news/today_electrical_situation.shtml

Southern California Edison from DOE Communication as of 7am EDT,

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as of 4pm EDT, http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/1475/179455/

- 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 but CA-ISO reports that no customers have been impacted by the loss of these lines. Additionally at 5pm EDT yesterday, two 230 kV transmission lines, the SONGS Viejo and SONGS Serrano, were both temporarily knocked out of service by a fires burning directly underneath of them.
CA-ISO has declared Restricted Maintenance Operations and issued a Transmission Emergency in Southern California for all day today (October 23).
At 8:30am EDT October 23, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) reports there are a significant number of transmission lines which have gone out of service around Miguel Mountain and Ranch Santa Fe as well as several hundred poles which have been damaged or destroyed by the fires. SDG&E has 750 employees and 80 contractors in the field working to restore power but



U.S. Department of Energy Emergency Support Function 12

fires are hampering their ability to get into areas to restore power. 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.

- As of 4pm EDT October 22, 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 wildfire. These 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 have been activated to FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).