



# Our Commitment to California

Keeping our communities safe from wildfires

Community Meeting for San Bernardino County  
May 26, 2021

# HOW TO SUBMIT A QUESTION

- You can submit a question using the Q&A window throughout the session
- If there is a similar question already being asked that you would like answered, you can click on the “thumbs up” icon next to the question to “like” it
- Please only submit questions that are relevant to the presentation and topics being presented

# SCE PRESENTERS



**Mark Cloud**  
Government Relations Manager  
Local Public Affairs

**Bola Ayorinde**  
Director  
Distribution

**Terry Ohanian**  
Director  
Expedited Grid Hardening

**Jessica Lim**  
Principal Manager  
Customer Service

**Jennifer Cusack**  
Government Relations Manager  
Local Public Affairs

# AGENDA

- 2020 Wildfire Season
- SCE's Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- Reducing the Need for PSPS
- Customer Care Programs
- Engaging Our Communities
- Resources
- Q&A

# READY! SET! GO!

YOUR PERSONAL WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

## READY!

Create and maintain defensible space and harden your home against flying embers.

## SET!

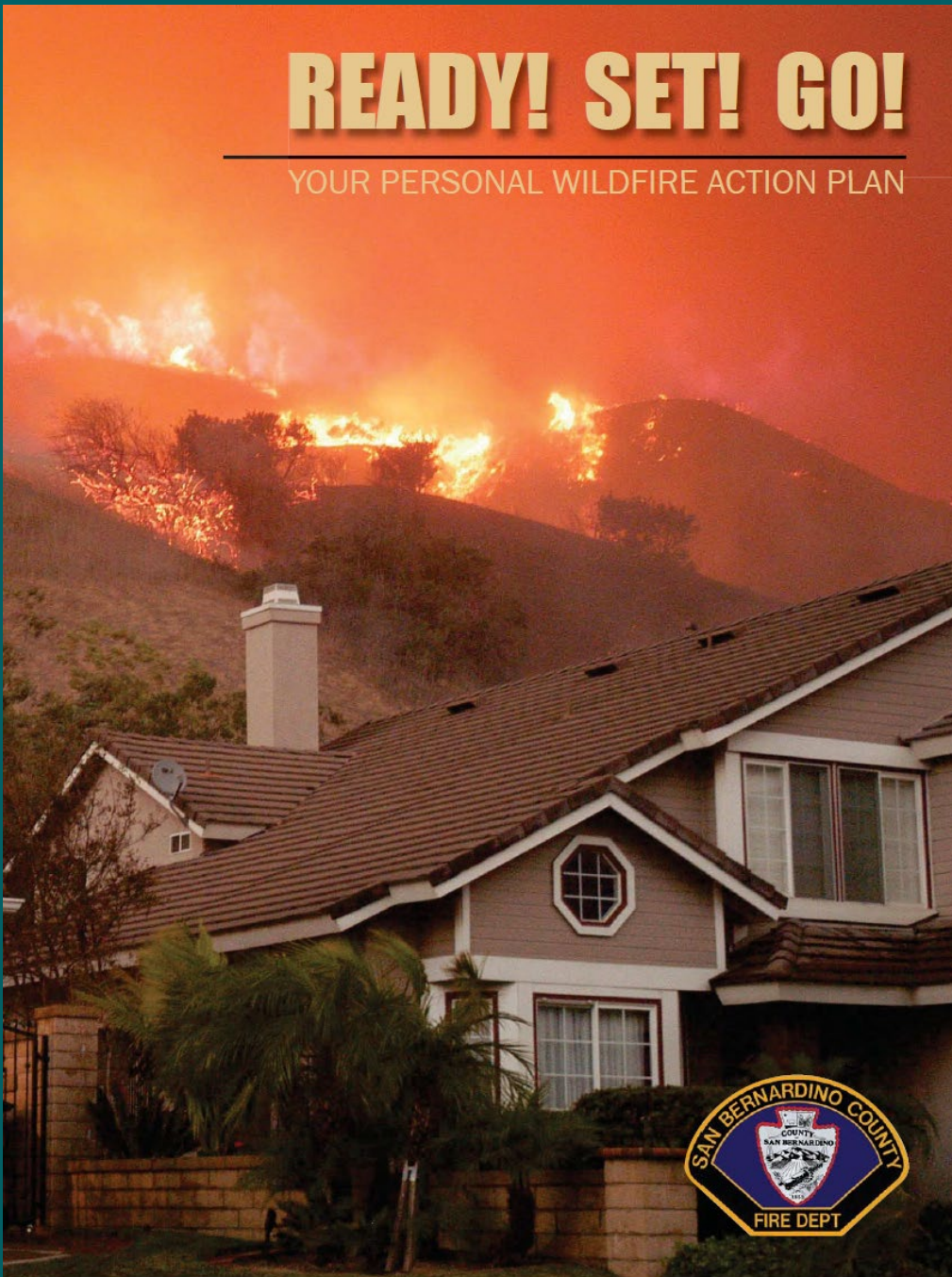
Prepare your family and home ahead of time for the possibility of having to evacuate.

## GO!

Take the evacuation steps necessary to give your family and home the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

**For more information:**

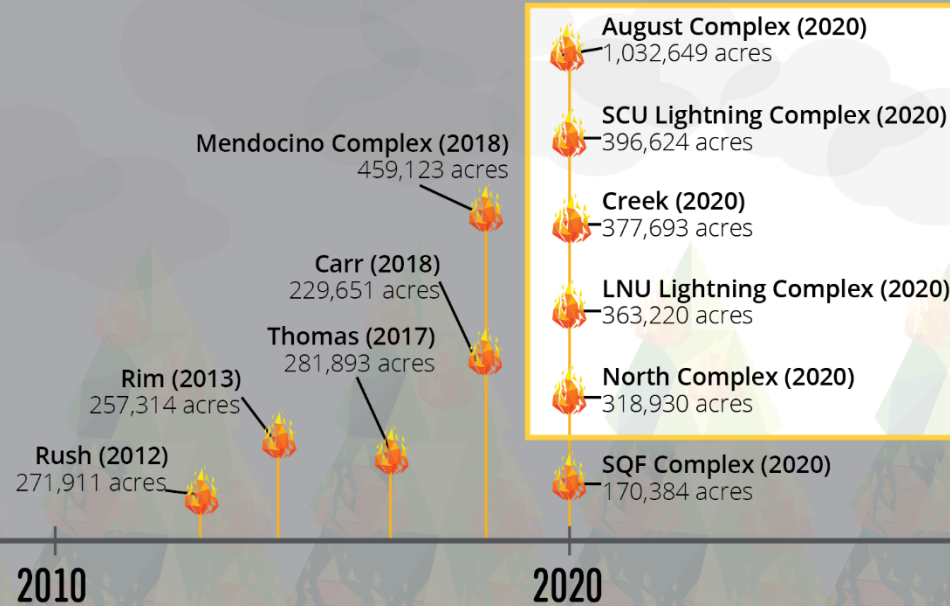
**[sbcfire.org/Programs/ReadySetGoFire.aspx](https://sbcfire.org/Programs/ReadySetGoFire.aspx)**



# 2020 WILDFIRE SEASON

California's wildfires in 2020 were the worst on record, with dry vegetation and strong winds threatening our communities during an unprecedented fire season

**5 OF THE 6  
LARGEST CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRES  
HAVE HAPPENED IN  
2020\***



Source: [https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jandlhh/top20\\_acres.pdf](https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jandlhh/top20_acres.pdf)

# SCE's PSPS EXECUTION

- **To reduce the threat of wildfires, SCE implemented Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) that impacted about 138,000 customers, with some customers experiencing multiple PSPS outages**
- **We understand the significant impact that PSPS has on communities, especially during a pandemic when many people are working and learning from home**
- **PSPS is used as a tool of last resort to protect public safety under dangerous fire weather conditions**
- **We are working to reduce the impact of PSPS and are continuing to strengthen the electric grid to become more resilient in the face of extreme weather events**

# OUR WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN



## Grid Hardening

Improving the electrical system to make the grid more resilient in high fire risk areas, improving reliability and reducing wildfire risk



## Situational Awareness

Using a dense network of weather stations and wildfire cameras to monitor location-specific, real-time conditions that help inform operational decision-making



## High Fire Risk Inspections

Annually inspect equipment in high fire risk areas for any needed maintenance, repair or replacement, prioritizing the highest-risk structures



## Vegetation Management

Annually inspect, trim and remove trees to prevent vegetation from coming into contact with electrical equipment and potentially sparking a fire

[safetrees@sce.com](mailto:safetrees@sce.com)



## Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Tool of last resort to protect our communities from the threat of wildfire, where we temporarily shut off power to prevent our electric system from becoming the source of an ignition

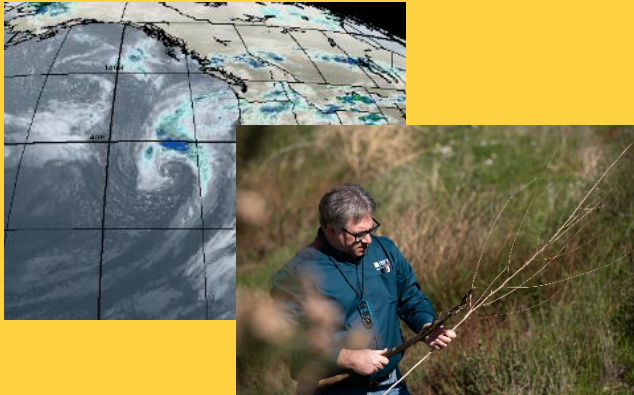




# PSPS DECISION POINTS

[sce.com/pspsdecisionmaking](https://sce.com/pspsdecisionmaking)

Decision points include, but are not limited to:



- National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings
- SCE meteorologists forecast **strong wind** conditions in service area
- SCE fire scientist assessment **of fire potential** to include consideration of **weather** and **fuels**



- Real-time observations from qualified electrical workers monitoring for **hazardous conditions** in the field



- Impact of de-energizing circuits on **first responders and essential services**

# OUR PSPS ACTION PLAN

We are implementing a plan to reduce the impact of PSPS to our customers and communities

## Reducing the Need for PSPS

Expediting grid hardening and other measures

## Executing PSPS More Effectively

Making decision-making process transparent, improving communications and notifications

## Reducing the Impacts of PSPS

Increasing customer and community resiliency

## Keeping Partners and Customers Informed

Educating and engaging our communities and stakeholders

## Enhancing Post-Event Reporting

Improving our post-event reports to make them more transparent and clearer

# REDUCING THE NEED FOR PSPS

- We are putting specific emphasis on those circuits most frequently impacted by PSPS while continuing work on other circuits subject to PSPS
- Grid hardening make circuits more resilient in the face of extreme weather events and reduce the scope, frequency and duration of future PSPS events



Above photos: SCE crew installing insulated wire

# TOOLS TO REDUCE NEED FOR PSPS

## Insulated Wires

Targeted replacement of bare wire with insulated wires (covered conductor) to be able to safely raise windspeed thresholds for PSPS

## Segmentation

Installing additional automated devices to further isolate and reduce the number of customers that have to be de-energized per circuit

## Weather Stations

Adding new weather stations to improve situational awareness and increase accuracy of PSPS operations – so only those circuits facing danger are in scope

## Switching Protocols

Continuing to develop circuit-specific protocols to move customers to nearby circuits not impacted by PSPS, to reduce the number of customers remaining on an affected circuit

## Operational Protocols

Up-to-date information on ground conditions, such as lack of vegetation, recent burn scars, and location of poles and wires are considered to assess wildfire threat and the need for PSPS

# Why Does My Neighbor Have Power and I Don't?

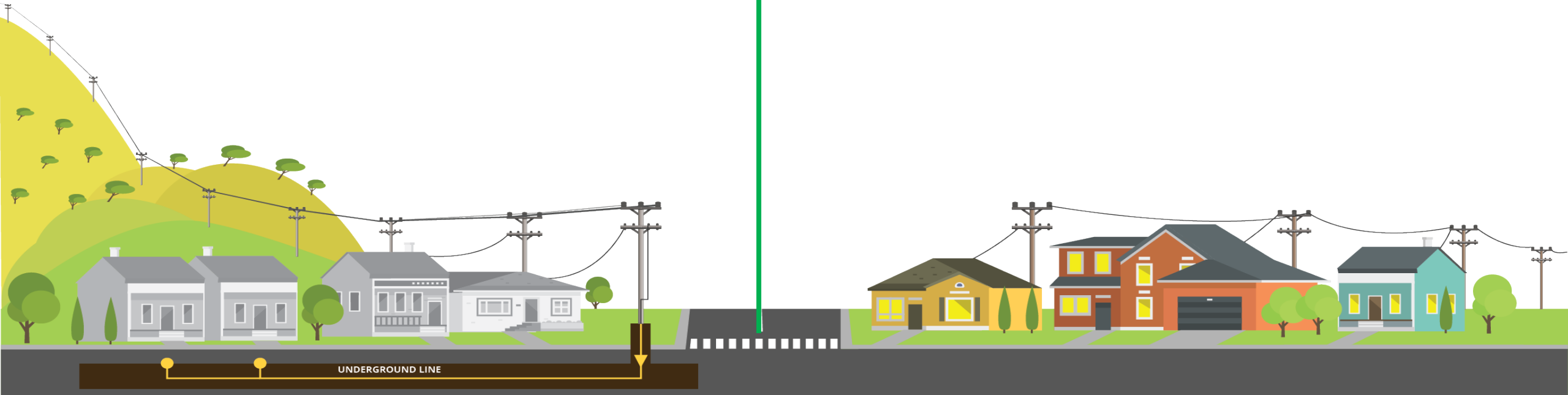
The location of your home or business on a circuit and the area of severe weather relative to your local substation are important factors in determining whether or not you are impacted by a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

## Neighborhood with power shut off due to PSPS

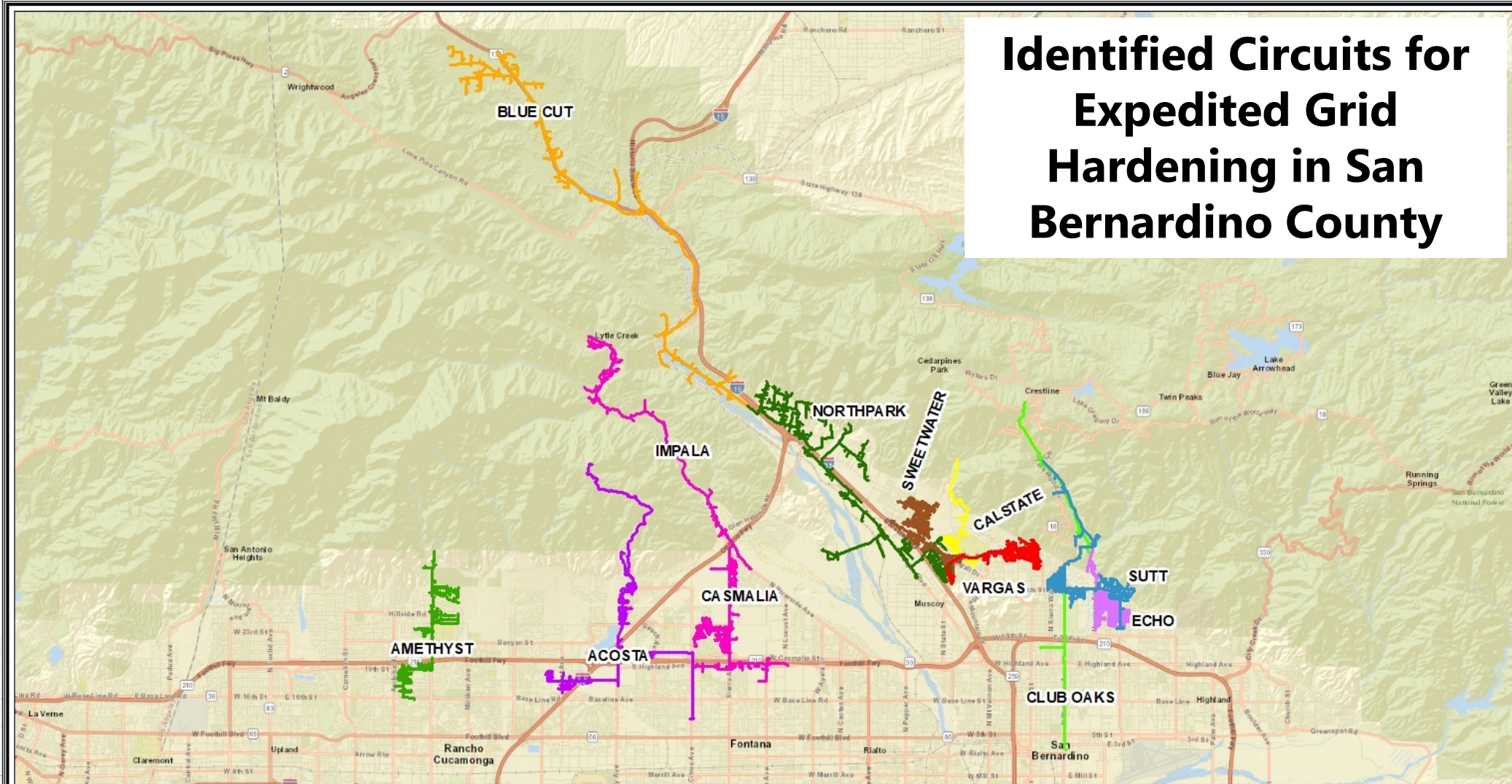
Wires originate in windy area with high fire risk

## Neighborhood keeps power during PSPS

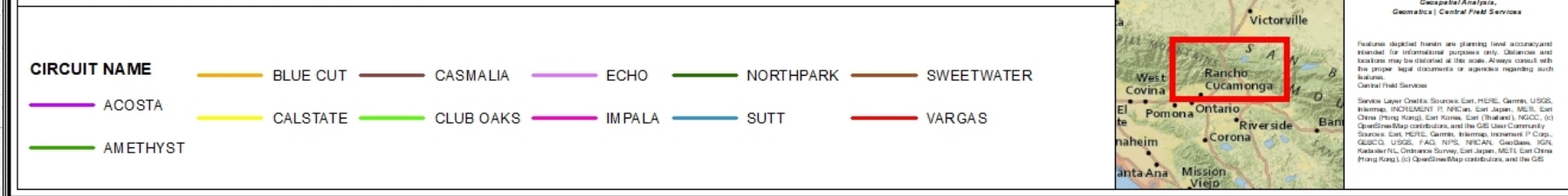
Wires originate in area with lower fire risk



# Identified Circuits for Expedited Grid Hardening in San Bernardino County



## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



CIRCUIT NAME	Color	CIRCUIT NAME	Color	CIRCUIT NAME	Color	CIRCUIT NAME	Color
BLUE CUT	Orange	CASMALIA	Pink	ECHO	Magenta	NORTH PARK	Green
ACOSTA	Purple	CALSTATE	Yellow	CLUB OAKS	Green	IMPALA	Magenta
AMETHYST	Green	SWEETWATER	Brown	SUTT	Blue	VARGAS	Red

Date: 5/19/2021  
 File Name: SanBernardus.mxd  
 Version #: Created by:  
 Geospatial Analysts,  
 Geomatics | Central Field Services



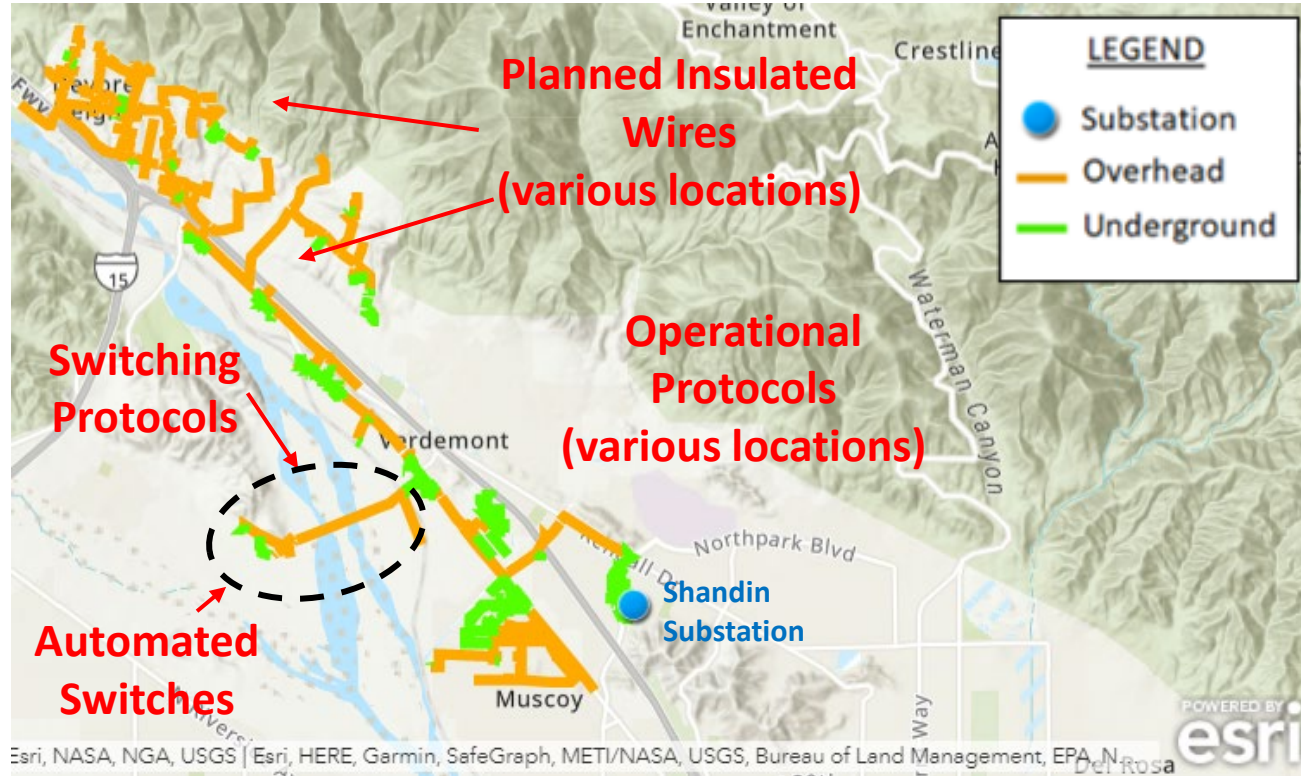
Features depicted herein are planning level accuracy and intended for informational purposes only. Distances and locations may be distorted at this scale. Always consult with the proper legal documents or agencies regarding such matters.  
 Central Field Services

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCA, Esri Japan, Swis, IGN, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (The Netherlands), NGCC, (C) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
 Source: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBCN, IGN, Navigational Intelligence, Swis, Esri Japan, Swis, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS



# EXAMPLE OF REDUCING THE NEED FOR PSPS

## Northpark Circuit



**Communities:** Devore Heights, San Bernardino

### Planned Work:

1. Insulated Wires: Replace 20.1 miles of existing overhead wire with new insulated wire
2. Switching Protocols: Transfer load to a less affected circuit during PSPS events
3. Segmentation: Automate 3 existing sectionalizing devices
4. Operational Protocols: Implement updated protocol to raise PSPS wind speed thresholds

### Expected Completion Date:

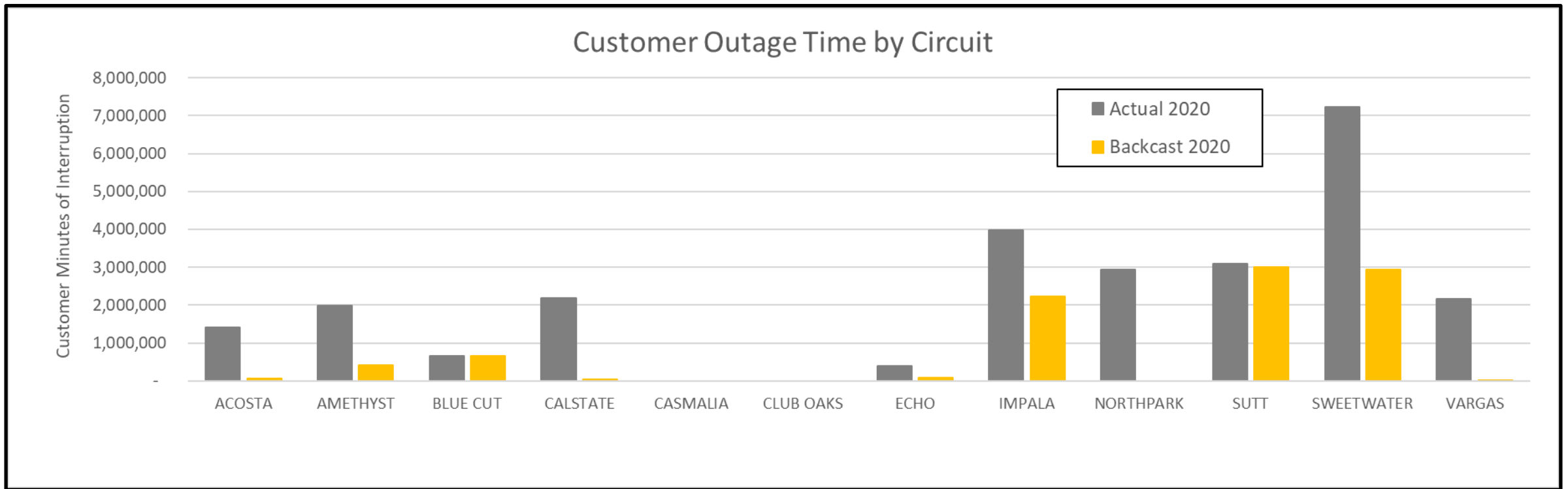
- September 2021

### Expected Improvements:

- **100% reduction** in customer outage time assuming the same weather conditions in 2020

# EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS

With the implementation of our plans, we expect to see a **64% reduction in customer outage time** across the frequently impacted circuits in San Bernardino County communities compared to 2020, assuming the same weather conditions



Updated: 05-24-2021

- 1) Frequently impacted circuits are circuits that have experienced four or more PSPS related outages in 2019-2021.
- 2) Customer outage time is measured as total Customer Minutes of Interruption (CMI).
- 3) Improvements on Blue Cut and Sutt expected in 2022 are not shown on this chart.



# PSPS COMMUNICATIONS

## Notifications

- SCE provides PSPS notifications through various communication channels
  - SCE Account Holders (email, text, and voice call)
  - Zip Code
  - NextDoor
- Sign up to stay informed before, during and after a PSPS event

## PSPS Outage Map

- Outage status look up is also available on our website

The screenshot shows the 'View Impacted Areas' section of the SCE website. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter an address, county, zip code or place to see if it is impacted.' Below the search bar is a map of Southern California with various cities labeled, including Santa Maria, Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, Simi Valley, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Santa Monica, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Pomona, Riverside, Corona, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Long Beach, Banning, Cathedral City, Palm Indio, Desert, Murrieta, Escondido, and Oceanside. The map features several icons: a yellow lightning bolt in a square (Power Shutoff), a blue square with a white lightning bolt (Under PSPS consideration), a yellow truck with a lightning bolt (Community Crew Vehicles), and a green triangle with a lightning bolt (Community Resource Centers). Below the map, there are two tabs: 'PSPS Areas' (selected) and 'High Risk Fire Areas'. A legend below the tabs explains the icons. At the bottom right, there is a yellow button labeled 'Report an Outage' and a yellow bar with the text 'Get Outage Alerts' and an upward-pointing arrow.

# CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAMS

## Rebates & Programs

- Fully subsidized Critical Care Backup Battery Program
  - Eligible Medical Baseline customers\*
- \$50 rebate for portable batteries (small device battery backup)
- \$300 & \$500 portable generator rebates for well water dependent customers
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)

## Care During Outages

- Community Crew Vehicles and Community Resource Centers
  - Information & Customer Support
  - Resiliency Kits
  - Hotel discounts

## Community Resiliency

- Resiliency zones targeting essential services in rural communities providing back-up generation during PSPS
- Community partnerships

\*Income-qualified Medical Baseline customers living in high-risk fire areas

# HELPING PROTECT COMMUNITIES

- **SCE supports the readiness of fire agencies**
- **SCE's partnership with local firefighting agencies will bring three fire-suppression helicopters to help combat wildfires across SCE's service area**



# ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

- **Customer education and community outreach**
  - Use of digital, social media, media and radio channels
  - Community meetings for impacted communities
  - Annual PSPS newsletter to all customers
  - Engage our most vulnerable customers
  - Partner with community-based organizations to support resiliency and emergency preparedness
- **Ongoing engagement with government officials, public safety partners, essential service providers and other stakeholders**



Website: [sce.com/wildfire](https://www.sce.com/wildfire)

Email: [wildfireoutreach@sce.com](mailto:wildfireoutreach@sce.com)

Social Media: @SCE on Twitter & Facebook

SCE Customer Support: 1-800-655-4555

## LEARN MORE



- Visit our website to learn more about our wildfire safety efforts and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)
- Provide feedback through the survey

## SIGN UP



- PSPS alerts
- SCE's Medical Baseline program
- SCE programs and rebates

## BE PREPARED



- Be prepared with a safety preparedness plan, some basic supplies and advance planning
- Power outage tips

# Additional Resources

Energy for What's Ahead<sup>SM</sup>



# HELPFUL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

SCE Wildfire Webpage – [sce.com/wildfire](https://www.sce.com/wildfire)

## SCE Notifications

- Sign up for PSPS alerts – [sce.com/pspsalerts](https://www.sce.com/pspsalerts)
- Sign up for the Energized by Edison Wildfire Mitigation Newsletter – [energized.edison.com/newsletter](https://energized.edison.com/newsletter)

## Situational Awareness

- PSPS maps and information – [sce.com/psps](https://www.sce.com/psps)
- PSPS decision making – [sce.com/pspsdecisionmaking](https://www.sce.com/pspsdecisionmaking)
- Role of weather in PSPS – [sce.com/fireweather](https://www.sce.com/fireweather)
- CPUC wildfire maps – [cpuc.ca.gov/wildfiresinfo](https://cpuc.ca.gov/wildfiresinfo)
- Fire cameras – [alertwildfire.org](https://www.alertwildfire.org)

## Preparedness

- SCE emergency preparedness – [sce.com/beprepared](https://www.sce.com/beprepared)
- CAL FIRE fire preparedness – [readyforwildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org)
- Red Cross emergency preparedness – [redcross.org/prepare](https://www.redcross.org/prepare)
- Listos California – [listocalifornia.org](https://www.listocalifornia.org)

## Vegetation Management

- Vegetation Management – [sce.com/safety/power-lines](https://www.sce.com/safety/power-lines); contact 1-800-655-4555 or [safetrees@sce.com](mailto:safetrees@sce.com)

## Customer Programs & Rebates

- SCE Customer Programs & Resources – [sce.com/customerresources](https://www.sce.com/customerresources)
- SCE Marketplace (rebates and programs) – [marketplace.sce.com](https://www.marketplace.sce.com)
- SCE Medical Baseline Program – [sce.com/medicalbaseline](https://www.sce.com/medicalbaseline)
- Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) – [sce.com/sgip](https://www.sce.com/sgip) or [selfgenca.com](https://www.selfgenca.com)

## Community Meetings

- Join SCE's wildfire safety community meetings – [sce.com/wildfiresafetymeetings](https://www.sce.com/wildfiresafetymeetings)

## Social Media

- Follow [@SCE](https://twitter.com/SCE) on Twitter and Facebook

# HOME GENERATOR TIPS

Using a backup source of power can keep you up and running during an outage, but generators can be dangerous if connected or used improperly. Consult an electrician before you bring a generator home to determine the proper equipment and set you up safely.

- 1. Equipment Options:** [Choose a generator](#) for more power than you think you will need, depending on what lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator. Again, this is best determined by an electrician.
- 2. Safety Hazards:** Every year people die in portable generator-related incidents. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock, electrocution and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator.
- 3. Getting Hooked up:** Connect electrical equipment to a portable generator using a heavy duty, outdoor extension cord that is rated more than the sum of the connected appliance loads. Make sure the entire cord has no cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Do not run portable generators indoors, and don't connect a portable generator to your home's electrical wiring or electrical panel as this can lead to serious injury or electrocution.
- 4. Beware of Backfeeding:** Never try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet, otherwise known as "backfeeding". This is extremely dangerous and can electrocute utility workers and even neighbors. Electrocution is the fifth leading cause of all reported occupational deaths.
- 5. Connect with an Electrician:** If you decide to wire a generator directly to your home, California state law mandates that you notify Southern California Edison. The only recommended method to connect a generator to house wiring is by having a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch, in compliance with national, state and local electrical codes. Find a licensed electrician to see if you can install the appropriate equipment.
- 6. Portable vs. Permanent:** Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded, become overheated and stress the generator components, which can lead to generator failure. For power outages, permanently installed, stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to a home or business.

For more information, see the [Understanding Backup Generation fact sheet](#).