

**Did you know?**

SDG&E® owns and operates over 220 weather stations that measure weather conditions 24/7 throughout our service territory.

Electric System Hardening:

Replacing overhead distribution power poles and overhead circuits



The new steel poles replacing the existing ones have a reddish-brown appearance similar to wood and are known as "weathered steel" poles.

Overview

As part of our commitment to providing safe and reliable energy, we're proactively addressing fire risk by hardening the areas most vulnerable to wildfires. Over the past decade, SDG&E® has implemented, and continues to improve, its comprehensive Wildfire Mitigation Program (WMP). This includes significant investments to replace wood poles with fire-resistant steel poles; undergrounding powerlines, building a sophisticated weather monitoring network and forecasting models; updating operating protocols; and building partnerships with stakeholders to enhance the region's overall ability to respond to wildfires.

SDG&E's Electric System Hardening program is part of our Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and aims to reduce the chances of a utility-related wildfire and improve the resilience of the power grid in the face of an ever-worsening climate. To date, we have replaced more than 26,000 wood poles with fire-resistant steel poles and have upgraded nearly 800 miles of overhead power lines in areas at most risk for wildfires. Over the next 10 years, we plan to upgrade more than 300 miles of overhead lines with thicker, stronger wire. These improvements to the resiliency of the regional power grid will help enhance safety, reduce the potential of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and improve reliability during extreme weather conditions.



To learn more, scan QR Code or visit sdge.com/ESH.

About the project

Our Electric System Hardening program, which was launched in 2013, address wildfire risk by modernizing critical and aging infrastructure and implementing innovative technologies. This includes replacing wood power poles with fire-resistant steel poles and upgrading overhead distribution lines with stronger and more resilient wire. The new lines are designed to withstand 85 mile-per-hour (mph) wind speeds and, in some specific cases, wind speeds up to 111 mph to reduce the risk of failures and potential sparks by the electric system.

What are the benefits?

- Enhanced safety and reliability of the distribution system
- Improved electric system performance during extreme weather conditions
- Reduced cost and environmental impacts for future maintenance activities

Construction details

You may see us or our contractors working near power poles in your area. They're collecting data and taking photos as part of the required analysis to prepare for upcoming work.

Construction is underway and will continue in phases. Crews will install the new poles and overhead wires, and remove the existing equipment. Tree pruning or brush clearing may be required for some jobs before work begins.



Crew replacing a wood pole with a fire-resistant steel pole.

During construction, we'll work as safely and efficiently as possible to minimize traffic, dust, and noise. Our activities may require us to temporarily shut off power to ensure our crews can work safely. If there is an outage, we'll contact you in advance to ensure you're prepared.

Once the new steel poles and components are in place and secured, the existing wood poles and wires will be removed and properly disposed of or recycled.

Contact information

Visit [sdge.com/ESH](https://www.sdge.com/ESH) for more information or call our Project Line at **877-738-0580** during normal business hours.