

Strategic Undergrounding



Did you know?

- SDG&E has invested in a variety of initiatives and technologies over the past decade to help prevent utility-related wildfires.
- SDG&E currently owns and operates more than 220 weather stations that measure weather conditions minute by minute throughout our service territory.
- As part of our enhanced fire safety measures, SDG&E has also replaced more than 26,000 wood poles with fire-resistant steel poles.

Overview

As part of its ongoing strategy to reduce wildfire risk and the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) during adverse weather conditions, San Diego Gas & Electric® (SDG&E®) is moving overhead powerlines underground in areas of the region that are most at risk for wildfires and PSPS. This is known as strategic undergrounding.

Strategic undergrounding is one of several projects outlined in SDG&E's Wildfire Mitigation Plan that aims to significantly reduce the chances of a utility-related wildfire. SDG&E's undergrounding initiatives are also targeted at reducing PSPS impacts on important facilities like schools, libraries, medical centers, and fire stations

Over the past decade, SDG&E has implemented, and continues to improve, its comprehensive wildfire risk mitigation program. This includes replacing wood poles with fire-resistant steel poles, building a sophisticated weather monitoring network and fire and weather forecast models, updating operating protocols, strategic undergrounding and building partnerships to enhance the region's overall ability to respond to wildfires.

About the project

The Strategic Undergrounding Program will provide heightened wildfire resiliency and electric reliability by undergrounding distribution lines near key community facilities.



Julian Undergrounding Project

Construction will take place in multiple locations. Work hours, traffic control and noise restrictions for each area are determined by the appropriate local authorities.

SDG&E's existing overhead power lines and equipment will eventually be removed once the undergrounding project is complete, but what is left may vary depending on circuit configuration. For example, if poles are also used by other utility providers, such as telephone or cable, and are required by those service providers, then the poles may need to stay for those services.

SDGE's Strategic Undergrounding Program was established in 2019 and focuses on High Fire Threat District (HFTD) Tier 3 and Tier 2. Its goal is to reduce or eliminate the threat of wildfire and the use of PSPS mitigation measures during adverse weather conditions. The program evaluates overhead lines that experience constant power shutoffs and where it makes sense to underground in the HFTD. Burying power lines removes the risk of fires during extreme weather conditions, but more importantly, buried lines can remain energized during PSPS, reducing the impact of power outages to fire-prone communities.

Project benefits

- Increased resiliency and reliability of the electric system
- Key community facilities, such as schools, can remain energized during a Public Safety Power Shutoff
- Reduce/eliminate wildfire risk and PSPS impacts

Construction details

The work may take place in phases, meaning work along each route will often occur intermittently, and all construction activities required in a particular area will not be completed at the same time. We anticipate intermittent traffic delays due to lane reductions, temporary restrictions or lane closures required during construction.

SDG&E's goal is to complete the project as quickly as possible to minimize the impact on the community. Rainstorms and other unforeseen weather conditions could affect the construction schedule.

Construction crews will be working Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Motorists and residents can expect intermittent traffic along the construction routes during construction hours. SDG&E anticipates that traffic delays may occur due to occasional lane reductions, temporary restrictions or lane closures required during construction.



We will continue to work closely with local communities to reduce the disruptions associated with construction activities to the extent possible. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we complete this critical work to strengthen our region's electric infrastructure.

For more information

For more information, please visit

sdge.com/undergrounding-overhead-powerlines

or call **1-844-765-6388**.