

# **COMMITMENT TO WILDFIRE SAFETY**

WILDFIRE RISK IN SDG&E'S SERVICE AREA - HIGH FIRE-THREAT DISTRICT

The HFTD is a geographic area, designated by the California Public Utilities Commission, that represents elevated and extreme risk for utility-associated wildfires.







sdge.com/wildfire-safety

The safety of our customers, employees and the communities we serve is our highest priority. Over the past decade, we have invested more than \$3 billion in a variety of safety measures to match our ever-changing climate and prevent catastrophic wildfires. We are committed to our communities and will continue to strengthen our infrastructure, weather technology and data analysis, and our partnerships and communications with local organizations and municipalities.

## STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 2007, SDG&E® has been implementing infrastructure hardening measures to protect people and property from utility-related wildfires. The Company's efforts have resulted in measurable reductions in wildfire risk and include:

- Replacing 26,000 wood poles with fire-resistant steel poles
- Maintaining more than 455,000 trees
- Undergrounding 30 miles of lines in the HFTD
- Hardening over 800 miles of distribution and 400 miles of transmission lines in the HFTD

Recently, SDG&E introduced a combination of new strategies to further mitigate the risk of both wildfires and impacts associated with Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS):

- Deploying advanced protection systems like falling conductor and highspeed relays that reduce the likelihood of an ignition
- Building a new private LTE network to support protection technologies and high-speed field communication
- Constructing four microgrids, including CAL FIRE's Ramona Air Attack Base, to help keep customers and critical facilities energized during PSPS
- Assessing over 30,000 poles using drones and utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to expedite equipment assessments

### ADVANCING SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Responding to extreme weather events is built on SDG&E's year-round preventative and preparative efforts. For wildfire safety, the Company uses situational awareness tools and WILDFIRE SAFETY 2

highly trained personnel to help identify, assess and prepare for potential hazards. SDG&E has integrated a variety of operational and situational awareness measures, including:

- A utility first Fire Science & Climate Adaptation
   Department with four full-time meteorologists that are constantly monitoring weather conditions that could lead to wildfire events
- A premier weather network of 220 weather stations that provides reads on temperature, humidity and wind every 30 seconds
- 105 high-definition cameras to determine wildfire location accurately and quickly
- New Al-based predictive models that increase the accuracy of weather forecasts, helping prevent wildfires and mitigate PSPS impacts on communities
- Utilization of support tools like the Fire Potential Index, Santa Ana Wind Threat Index and Vegetation Risk Index to strengthen operational decision making and regional preparedness

#### **ENHANCING OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Communication and customer engagement is fundamental to ensuring complete wildfire preparedness and safety. SDG&E has dedicated itself to meeting its customers' needs and has established multiple channels of communication:

- Year-round wildfire safety education and communications campaign that leverages more than 20 diverse communications platforms
- Communication in 21 prevalent languages in the service territory to reach all customers
- In-community electronic signage to share important and timely safety information
- Collaboration with 400 community-based organizations to help amplify important preparedness and safety messages
- Multiple webinars and wildfire safety fairs to connect customers with subject matter experts



Wildfire safety fairs provide community members an opportunity to interact directly with subject matter experts regarding important safety and operational information.

#### REDUCING PSPS CUSTOMER IMPACTS

SDG&E utilizes PSPS as a last resort tool to mitigate the risk of wildfires during extreme weather events. The Company recognizes the difficulties that power shutoffs can pose for our customers' everyday lives. In 2020, SDG&E took proactive steps to address customer needs:

- 1,334 portable battery-powered generators were distributed to Medical Baseline customers who experienced a PSPS in 2019
- 2,284 generator purchase rebates were downloaded by customers in the HFTD
- A new PSPS mobile app, known as Alerts by SDG&E, was developed to allow users to get real-time updates on events, and capture much needed resource information
- Strategic partnership with 2-1-1 San Diego and 2-1-1 Orange County to help amplify important safety messaging and support vulnerable populations during events



