



# SDGE's PSPS Functional Exercise

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## After-Action Report / Improvement Plan

August 12 & 15, 2022

*The After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) outlines strengths, as well as areas identified for improvement. For each area for improvement, recommendations are outlined for consideration.*

# Exercise Overview

<b>Exercise Name</b>	Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Functional Exercise (FE)
<b>Exercise Dates</b>	August 12, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. August 15, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Scope</b>	This exercise was a virtual functional, planned two days each with set timeframes of exercise play held via Teams®.
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this exercise was to test SDG&E's understanding of de-energization and notification procedures for a PSPS event.
<b>Focus Area</b>	Response
<b>Capabilities</b>	Operational Coordination Operational Communication
<b>Objectives</b>	Demonstrate SDG&E's ability to conduct PSPS decision-making and EOC response procedures during a Red Flag Warning in accordance with SDG&E's Wind Event Operational Annex.  Coordinate PSPS operations with local and state public safety partner agencies, tribal, and access and functional needs and vulnerable populations representatives during a PSPS event.  Ensure SDG&E conducts PSPS stage change notifications in accordance with SDG&E's Notification Group Concept of Operations (ConOps) and applicable regulatory requirements.
<b>Threat or Hazard</b>	High Fire Threat District (HFTD) scenario with extreme Fire Potential Index's (FPI's)
<b>Scenario</b>	A Santa Ana wind event is expected Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Red Flag Warning for Inland Orange County (Zone 554) and the San Diego County Valleys and Mountains (Zones 250 & 258) to be in effect from 0800 Monday until 1200 Tuesday. The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index (SAWTI) was rated Marginal on both Monday and Tuesday.  Winds are forecast to drop below alert speed thresholds by late Tuesday morning, while the FPI is expected to return to Elevated for all districts by Tuesday at noon.  Winds are forecast to drop below alert speed thresholds by late Tuesday morning, while the FPI is expected to return to Elevated for all districts by Tuesday at noon.  California Independent System Operator (CAISO) has issued a Flex Alert.
<b>Participants</b>	This exercise was focused on SDG&E's EOC members and our external partners. For a full list of participants, see Appendix A.
<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Jessica Kunert</b> Emergency Management Training Manager <a href="mailto:jkunert@sdge.com">jkunert@sdge.com</a>

# Executive Summary

## Structure

This exercise was a virtual, functional exercise that took place via Teams. The goal of this exercise was to test the notification and decision-making procedures for a PSPS event.

A functional exercise is an operations-based exercise designed to test and evaluate capabilities and functions in a realistic, real-time environment. The movement of resources and actual response is simulated.

## Exercise Analysis

The After-Action Report (AAR) provides a detailed list of strengths and areas for improvement identified throughout the exercise and hotwash process. Each strength and area for improvement has been aligned to the most appropriate SDG&E capability.

The areas for improvement provide a statement of the improvement area, an analysis that explains why it was identified as an improvement area, recommendations, and an assigned priority level (high, medium, low). An Improvement Plan (IP), outlined at the end of this document, assigns a point of contact for implementing the recommendation as well as a target due date for completion.

## Strengths

**Strength 1:** Collaboration between key leaders in the response contributed to the operation's decision-making and situational awareness.

The Officer-In-Charge (OIC), Deputy Operations Chief – Electric (DOC-E), and Meteorology unit maintained consistent communication and shared situational awareness as the incident developed and demonstrated effective decision making based on this shared situational awareness. Prior to the initiation of mandatory tasks, personnel received clear guidance and instructions. Communication on the transfer of responsibilities between leadership contributed to the smooth continuity of the operation's decision-making.

**Strength 2:** The decision to separate specific activity group calls to convene and dialogue effectively prevented the operation's mainline channel from overloading.

The Notification group's information sharing improved after units convened in an alternative channel to allow each section to report out in the correct order. Separating notifications coordination and command staff's mainline communications created an operations focus on the mainline.

**Strength 3:** Daily Safety briefings reflected a real-world example of communication expectations during an operation.

The operations safety briefings emphasized the importance of all responders maintaining situational awareness on fire prevention while working on high-risk events.

## Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

**Area for Improvement 1:** Some EOC responders expressed a lack of familiarity with the MS Teams—the organization's current Incident Management System (IMS)—interface and functionality for certain tasks.

Analysis: MS Teams limitations create difficulties for EOC exercise players and Evaluators to track scenario developments and events. Exercise players were challenged in navigating in and out of multiple MS Teams channels to validate and track down all relevant information to guide decision-making.

**Recommendation: Develop new and incoming EOC responders' Microsoft Teams proficiency within an EOC context by integrating the software's familiarization into responder training.**

Priority: Medium

**Area for Improvement 2:** Opportunities to integrate community collaboration resources were not fully absorbed into the exercise.

Analysis: The SD-LECC is a situational awareness platform that external partners use for information sharing which can be leveraged in exercises. Critical facilities (CFs) are affected by the utility's shut-offs; our stakeholders in law enforcement and critical infrastructure have more visibility on what to expect.

**Recommendation: SDG&E will collaborate with InfraGard on presentations to its stakeholders so they understand the PSPS process.**

Priority: Low

**Area for Improvement 3:** Develop training environments to better test systems during exercises.

Analysis: As identified during past exercises, certain systems such as the PSPS Dashboard and Public Safety Partner Portal had to be simulated with pre-developed data because live systems are tied to actual de-energizations. Additionally, during this exercise only planned PSPS GIS data was able to be shared due to the same issue.

**Recommendation: Include GIS as a candidate for exercise training environments to be utilized to test data transfer during future exercises.**

Priority: Medium

# Appendix A: Improvement Plan

This IP is developed specifically for SDG&E as a result of this exercise. Areas for improvement have been assigned corrective actions, points of contact, and expected completion dates.

Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	SDG&E Capability	Priority Level	Point of Contact	Start Date	Completion Date
Some EOC responders expressed a lack of familiarity with the MS Teams—the organization's current Incident Management System (IMS)—interface and functionality for certain tasks.	Develop new and incoming EOC responders' Microsoft Teams proficiency within an EOC context by integrating the software's familiarization into responder training.	Operational Coordination	Medium	Mona Freels	In Progress	Q2 2023
Develop training environments to better test systems during exercises.	Include GIS as a candidate for exercise training environments to be utilized to test data transfer during future exercises.	Operational Communication	Medium	Jessica Kunert	In Progress	Q2 2023
Opportunities to integrate community collaboration resources were not fully absorbed into the exercise.	SDG&E will collaborate with InfraGard on presentations to its stakeholders so they understand the PSPS process.	Operational Coordination	Low	Jessica Kunert	In Progress	Q2 2023

## Appendix B: External Partners

The following table outlines the external partners and SDG&E representatives who participated in this exercise.

First Name	Last Name	Agency / Organization
Moustafa	Abou-Taleb	CA Public Utilities Commission
Reggie	Agarma	SDG&E
Arthur	Alvarez	SDG&E
Gabriela	Amaya	Southern Indian Health Council
Preston	Ancello	SDG&E
Tonya	Anthony	SDG&E
Chris	Arends	SDG&E
Michael	Ashby	SDG&E
Jonathan	Baltazar	SDG&E
Jocelyn	Barrueta	FACT
Sandra	Baule	SDG&E
Hollie	Bierman	SDG&E
Chris	Bolton	SDG&E
Deborah	Booker	SDG&E
Hiram	Borunda	SDG&E
Michele	Borunda	SDG&E
Kristopher	Bourbois	SDG&E
Carrie	Bowers	SDG&E
Joe	Britton	SDG&E
Heather	Bromund	SDG&E
Susan	Burchardt	SDG&E
Bernadette	Butkiewicz	SDG&E
Patrick	Buttron	CalOES Southern Region - San Diego
Brett	Carnot	SDG&E
Hannah	Chasteene	City of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services
Hope	Christman	CPUC
Antonio	Cruz	SDG&E
Danielle	De	SDG&E
Jason	Diaz	SDG&E
Ashleah	Dingle	SDG&E
Andy	Domask	SDG&E
Stacy	Duncan	California Department of Social Services
Dru	Dunton	CA Public Utilities Commission
Kelvin	Ellis	SDG&E
Truc	Emerzian	SDG&E
Cynthia	Ferrer	SDG&E

Lena	Fotland	SDG&E
Mona	Freels	SDG&E
Tom	Fries	SDG&E
Jeff	Fuentes	CAL FIRE
Katherine	Fuller	SDG&E
Joseph	Gabaldon	SDG&E
Helen	Gao	SDG&E
Joe	Garrido	SDG&E
Hassan	Ghoudjehbakou	SDG&E
Katie	Giannecchini	SDG&E
Sarah	Glady	SDG&E
Dana	Golan	SDG&E
Mia	Graff	SDG&E
Zoraya	Griffin	SDG&E
Bobby	Guess	AT&T Wireline
Katelyn	Hailey	SDG&E
Eric	Harris	SDG&E
Marissa	Heater	SDG&E
Richard	Hinrichs	SDG&E
Allegra	Hirth	SDG&E
Jason	Hom	SDG&E
Bixi	Howe	American Red Cross
Dustin	Ivers	County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services
John	Jenkins	SDG&E
Jennifer	Jett	SDG&E
Corina	Jimenez	City of Encinitas
April	Johnson	SDG&E
Keane	Johnson	SDG&E
Kimberly	Ketron	SDG&E
Alex	Kim	SDG&E
Charles	Kim	San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center
Ron	Kiralla	SDG&E
Steven	Klaiber	CPUC SED WSEB
Michael	Knobbe	SDG&E
Jon	Kochik	SDG&E
Danielle	Kyd	SDG&E
Kawika	Lawlor	SDG&E
Desmond	Lew	California Public Utilities Commission
Agnes	Luster	AT&T Mobility
Ashley	Lyons	CALOES
Brad	Mantz	SDG&E
Elisa	Marrone	City of Poway
Justin	Matsushita	City of Santee



Ruben	Medina	San Diego Sheriff's Department
Julia	Mendoza	SDG&E
Mark	Mezta	SDG&E
Laura	Millan	SDG&E
Alexandria	Moffat	SDG&E
Roland	Mollen	SDG&E
Yumin	Moon	SDG&E
Chris	Nanson	SDG&E
Charlotte	Nevarez	CALOES
Hai	Nguyen	SDG&E
Jessica	Obando	General Atomics
Michael	Obermiller	City of Poway Public Works
Raul	Olamendi	SDG&E
Bianca	Ornelas	SDG&E
Carolyn	Ortiz	SDG&E
Jen	Palombo	SDG&E
Conor	Paris	SDG&E
Peggy	Parolin	SDG&E
Halima	Phillips-Smith	SDG&E
Adam	Pierce	SDG&E
Cruz	Ponce	Cal OES - Southern Region
Thom	Porter	SDG&E
Kevin	Quinn	ATT Mobility
Martha	Quintero	SDG&E
Christina	Rathbun	AFN Liaison, SDG&E
Janell	Rihan	SDG&E
John	Ritter	SDG&E
Mauricio	Rodriguez	SDG&E
Antoinette	Romo	SDG&E
Victor	Roosen	SDG&E
Arthur	Saldana	SDG&E
Miranda	Sanderlin	SDG&E
Rodrigo	Santillan	Southern Indian Health Council
Rachel	Scharf	SDG&E
Todd	Schavrien	SDG&E
Sandra	Severns	Th Salvation Army EDS
Andrea	Smith	SDG&E
Kevin	Spiwak	SDG&E
Jeff	Stein	SDG&E
Josh	Stewart	SDG&E
Tyson	Swetek	SDG&E
Jen	Taylor	SDG&E

Tashonda	Taylor	SDG&E
Alex	Ter-Vrugt	SDG&E
Dana	Thomas	SDG&E
Bryce	Tiernan	SDG&E
Allison	Torres	SDG&E
Susy	Turnbull	City of Poway
Karen	Valencia	Cal OES
Vanessa	Vandever	SDG&E
Richard	Veihl	SDG&E
Jane	Verbeek	SDG&E
William	Watson	SDG&E
Michelle	White	SDG&E
Amanda	Wight	SDG&E
Christina	Williams	SDG&E
Shewit	Woldegiorgis	SDG&E
Jonathan	Woldemariam	SDG&E
Mabel	Wu	CPUC