

SCE is preparing for El Nino in the Santa Barbara Area

Weather forecasters are predicting record El Nino storms. Severe weather could impact Southern California Edison's (SCE) entire service territory. There are unique circumstances in Santa Barbara that, when coupled with a strong El Nino season, could present heightened risks for an outage. SCE is planning and preparing for the storms, and becoming ready to respond to any potential impacts to our electric system.

Our planning and preparation efforts to address the unique circumstances in the Santa Barbara area include:

Physical Preparations:

- Completing a hazard analysis of the entire Santa Barbara area and identifying specific areas where we are taking steps to mitigate the impact of potential outages.
- Pre-positioning multiple mobile generators at certain key substations to provide temporary, emergency power. SCE will install these generators starting in mid-December, in time for potential 2016 storms, and they will remain in place only through the storm season.
- Securing additional generation in Goleta with NRG, owner and operator, of the Ellwood Generating Station. The Ellwood Generating Station would only produce power when needed and could play a valuable role if a loss of transmission capacity occurs.
- Assessing the landslide risk for various locations along the lines, and performing ongoing inspections and monitoring of our towers that will continue throughout the rainy season, as well as conducting pre-storm preventative maintenance.
- Adhering to a robust maintenance and inspection schedule for SCE's facilities and equipment throughout the area.

Preparing to Respond:

- Outreaching to the Santa Barbara Emergency Response Organization and the California Office of Emergency Services to review our planning efforts.
- Interacting with local emergency responders, including the Santa Barbara Emergency Response Organization to share our preparedness efforts.
- Participation in a June 12, multi-jurisdictional Coastal Trident drill with the county of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management. This drill allowed us to test emergency response efforts in partnership with several government agencies and private companies.
- Implementing the Incident Command System — a standard, widely used emergency response system — to respond to and manage business disruptions and to improve our integration with first responders. In the Santa Barbara area, we have set up specialized response teams familiar with the technical challenges we face in that area and have those teams "on call" to ensure we can support sustained operations around the clock if needed.

To Report Downed Wires Call 911
To Report an Outage Call 1-800-611-1911