

**Did you know?**

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Electric System Hardening Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the purpose of SDG&E's Electric System Hardening Program?**

A: We're leading the transition to a resilient, clean energy future. As energy demand and extreme weather threats increase, strengthening the energy grid is more important than ever. SDG&E's Electric System Hardening program is one of the programs in our Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) that helps strengthen our electric infrastructure in areas most prone to wildfires.

Q: How does this program make the electric system safer?

A: Launched in 2013, the Electric System Hardening program addresses 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. SDG&E® also started installing covered conductor wire in 2020. 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.

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 covered and stronger conductor 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.

Q: What can I expect when this work starts in my area?

A: Activities near your property or residence include survey and site preparation activities and replacing existing conductor with stronger steel and aluminum wire that is also covered. Markers will be placed to identify the proposed new pole and anchor locations. Crews will perform the replacement work in your neighborhood in phases.

These teams will be on-site digging holes for the first few days. The installation of new poles and overhead line work will follow soon after. Both the former wood poles and upgraded steel poles may remain in place until crews can remove the wood poles from the site. SDG&E crews and our contractors will make every effort to minimize construction impacts on our customers. We work closely with design, construction and environmental experts to ensure we are respecting environmentally-sensitive areas and other site-specific concerns.

Q: What can I expect during construction?

A: Crews will be installing new steel poles and overhead, covered conductor wires. Existing wood poles that do not have third-party communication lines (phone, cable, internet) will be removed promptly. Poles with third-party communication lines attached cannot be removed until these lines have been transferred to the new pole by the associated communication company. Tree pruning or brush clearing may be required on some jobs prior to work. After construction, inspections may be performed on foot or with drones and/or helicopters and additional repairs may be necessary. Some activities may require temporary outages to ensure crews can work safely. If a power outage is necessary, you will be contacted in advance.

Q: Will the roads near my property be repaired after construction?

A: Road damage is not anticipated; however, repairs will be made if needed.



Q: Will I be able to use my driveway during construction?

A: Depending on the location of your property, your driveway may temporarily be inaccessible during construction. Our crews will notify you in advance should your access be impacted. Traffic control personnel will be on-site to ensure that you will be able to travel freely and safely. We appreciate our customers' time and flexibility as we do this critical work in the most efficient way possible to reduce wildfire risk and keep your home and community safe.

Q: I prefer advance notice before construction begins on my property. Can I request a phone call 72 hours in advance of the crew arriving to work on my property?

A: Yes, if your property has unique requirements, locked gates, difficulty accessing roadways or sensitive livestock. We have an outreach team that can coordinate details with you. Please call **877-738-0580** and inform them of your circumstances.