



# Southern California Edison Backgrounder

Contact: Corporate Communications: 626-302-2255, [www.edisonnews.com](http://www.edisonnews.com)



## Southern California Edison's Rigorous Emergency Preparation

The men and women of Southern California Edison's (SCE's) nuclear generation program take no responsibility more seriously than working to ensure employee and public safety.

SCE has operated the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station since 1968 without a radioactivity injury to employees or the public. Should an emergency occur, SCE would use an emergency classification system employed by all U.S. nuclear plant operators to inform local community officials and the public of developments at the San Onofre facility.

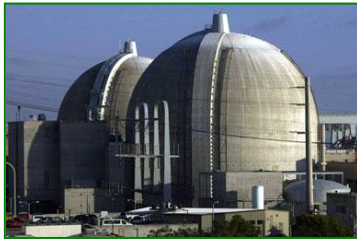
### Emergency Classification System

#### Unusual Event

If SCE declares an "unusual event" is in progress at its San Onofre facility, it means something has happened that could lower plant safety but did not result in a release of radioactive material.

#### Alert

SCE would declare an "alert" if events at the plant create an actual reduction in plant safety. This notice would mean plant operators believe any release of radioactive material would be well below safe exposure level guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



#### Site Area Emergency

This SCE declaration would mean events were occurring that create an imminent or actual failure of a plant system related to public safety. While such a notice would mean plant operators believe that any release of radioactive material could exceed EPA limits, a "site area emergency" means that the possibility exists only inside and immediately adjacent to plant boundaries.

#### General Emergency

If SCE declares a "general emergency," it would signal the highest level of emergency declaration. Such an announcement would mean that damage to reactor fuel is imminent or has occurred, and could trigger a release of radioactive material that exceeds EPA guidelines beyond the plant site.

During any of these types of declared emergencies, SCE would work closely with local, state and federal officials who then would communicate to the public what actions are recommended.

## A Partnership of Public Care and Protection

SCE is part of an active association of seven local and state agencies called the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee. The group has developed and regularly drills on emergency procedures designed to ensure the public would receive fast, effective assistance should an emergency occur. Members include the cities of Dana Point, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Orange and San Diego counties, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and Camp Pendleton.



## Community Alert Siren System

SCE maintains an advanced system of electronic sirens strategically located in communities surrounding the San Onofre facility that community officials would use in the event of a nuclear emergency requiring public action. Sounding the sirens would alert area residents to turn on radio and TV stations for public safety information. The system is routinely tested by SCE personnel. Each fall, the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee conducts a heavily publicized siren test designed to ensure that the public is familiar with the distinctive sound of the sirens and understands appropriate actions to take in an emergency.

## Emergency Planning Zone

An area approximately 10 miles around the San Onofre facility is divided into five individual zones to better pinpoint specific actions that might be needed during a nuclear emergency.



## Emergency Planning – Everyone's Job

Southern California families and businesses should have an emergency plan to guide their response to disasters, natural or otherwise. SCE recommends contacting community and state emergency preparedness offices and organizations such as the American Red Cross for emergency planning information. Such information also is published in the Customer Guide section of South Orange County and San Diego North County coastal telephone directories. Here are examples of Web sites where such information can be found: [www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html](http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html), [www.sdcountyemergency.com](http://www.sdcountyemergency.com), [www.danapointemergencyservices.org](http://www.danapointemergencyservices.org), [www.san-clemente.org](http://www.san-clemente.org), [www.sanjuancapistrano.org](http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org), [bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov](http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov).

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