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UTILITIES OFFER TIPS TO KEEP PETS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE

Utility Employees Suffer from Dog Bites Every Year while Working

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Utility employees enter yards and homes on a daily basis to provide gas and electric services to their customers. This routine part of the job can lead to hazards when dog owners leave their pets loose. This National Dog Bite Prevention Week, May 15-21, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), remind customers to keep dogs secure whenever a utility employee is scheduled to visit a home or business.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dogs bite about 4.5 million Americans each year. One in five dog bites results in injuries that require medical attention. Although children are the most common victims, dozens of utility employees in California are moderately to severely injured by dogs each year. Here are some tips to help prevent dog bites and provide a safe environment for both your pets and utility employees:

- Restrain or relocate your dog during scheduled customer service visits and when it's time for utility employees to read your meter.
- Contact your local utilities or check your monthly bills for the dates when utility workers are scheduled to conduct meter readings. On those days, leave gates unlocked and keep your dogs or other pets restrained or confined in another section of the property.
- If the employee is outside, keep your dog inside. If the employee is inside, keep your dog outside. If the employee must work near your dog, make sure it's securely restrained or confined. Dogs may become more protective in the presence of their owners.
- Post a Beware of Dog sign on your fence or house to avoid any surprises.
- Leave a note on your meter explaining that you have a dog and how and where it is confined.
- Be sure all vaccinations and inoculations for rabies and parasites are up to date.
- Train your dog to obey simple commands like "sit," "stay," "no" and "come." Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.
- Collar your dog, so you have the means to quickly restrain your dog in any emergency.

- If you get a new dog, contact your local utilities to let them know.

About PG&E: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of [PG&E Corporation](#) (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/about/.

About Southern California Edison: An Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, Southern California Edison is one of the nation's largest electric utilities, serving a population of nearly 14 million via 4.9 million customer accounts in a 50,000-square-mile service area within Central, Coastal and Southern California. For more information, visit www.sce.com/.

About SoCalGas: [Southern California Gas Co.](#) has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to 20.9 million consumers through nearly 5.8 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout Central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of [Sempra Energy](#) (NYSE: SRE).

About SDG&E: [SDG&E](#) is a regulated public utility that provides safe and reliable energy service to 3.5 million consumers through 1.4 million electric meters and more than 850,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties. The utility's area spans 4,100 square miles. SDG&E is committed to creating ways to help our customers save energy and money every day.