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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CUEA Annual Conference	1-2
PG&E's Weather Stations	3
CPUC Press Release	4
SCE's Mobile Command Center	5
SoCalGas Pledges \$60,000	6
UOC Responders Orientation	7
CUEA's Board of Directors	7
AREP Training	7
CUEA Committees	8

CUEA 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CUEA's Annual Conference was held on June 28th, 2018 at Southern California Edison's Technology Center in the City of Irwindale. The conference was co-hosted by Southern California Edison. This year the theme of the conference was "CUEA's Year of Changing Environment." Our knowledgeable list of speakers included representatives from SCE, SMUD, PG&E, Cal Trans, Cal OES, FBI and the InfraGard. Don Boland, CUEA's Executive Director, welcomed all attendees to the conference. We then had the privilege of being greeted by Ronald O. Nichols, the president of Southern California Edison. He is responsible for external affairs, compliance, power production and procurement, and other operations. The next two speakers shared their experience of



SMUD crews in Puerto Rico

deployment to Puerto Rico. First was Jeff Briggs from SMUD. His presentation included an overview of Hurricane Maria, the Electric Sector Mutual Aid, the Puerto Rico Deployment and Lessons Learned. Followed by Jeff was Evermary Hickey from PG&E. Evermary shared information on PG&E's Mutual Assistance process, base camps, safety and challenges. Among those safety con-

cerns and challenges that PG&E faced were vaccines, poisonous plants, dangerous insects, the language barrier and the driving. Evermary stated that the traffic infrastructure was not functioning and the drivers do not follow the four way stop protocol. After hearing the ins and outs of the deployment



Evermary Hickey from PG&E

CUEA 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

to Puerto Rico, we had Jake Bradbury and David Smotherman from Cal Trans discuss their response to the Highway 101 and 192 mudslides. The January 9th storm followed in the wake of damage caused by the Thomas Fire. In the immediate aftermath, rocks, mud and debris destroyed many areas of Montecito, causing the immediate



Major challenge was de-watering the area
Highway 101

closure of US 101 between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Highway 192, Highway 33, and Highway



Jake Bradbury from CalTrans

150 were also impassable. The Cal Trans presentation included several captivating pictures and videos of the damage and the work they did to get the highways back open. The last speaker of the morning session was Ryan Smith, Cal OES Assistant Chief of Law. He provided the audience with an Active Assailant Aware-

ness Presentation. Unfortunately we have seen these types of incidents on the news all too often lately.

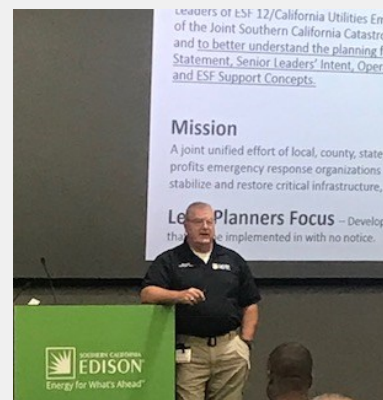
We learned some valuable tips on what to do if we suspect suspicious activity or behavior.

Our afternoon session began with Deron McElroy from DHS. Deron's presentation covered Building Cyber Resilience. Next on the agenda was Justin Vallese from the FBI. He discussed the FBI Cyber Programs for key industries. After the two cyber presentations, Pat Hammond and Jeff Newman from Cal OES gave an update on the Northern and Southern CAT Plan. Steve Frew from East Bay MUD and his panel of representatives from the FBI and InfraGard were the closing presenters of the day. FBI Special Agent Fred Simon encouraged everyone to join InfraGard. They discussed the benefits of being a member and the application process. After the final presentation, the attendees were invited to tour SCE's EOC.

We hope that those who attended the 2018 CUEA Annual Conference bene-

fitted greatly from the information shared and the relationships built, thus strengthening California's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats, emergencies and other serious events. We would also like to give a special thanks to Southern California Edison for their hospitality and contribution to our conference. With the continued support of the organization and its initiatives, CUEA continues to lead the way in statewide utility emergency response and planning.

Most of the speakers presentations can be found on the CUEA website at www.cueainc.com.



Patrick Hammond from OES

PG&E ADDS OVER 50 NEW WEATHER STATIONS TO ADVANCE FORECASTING ABILITIES, BETTER PREDICT EXTREME WEATHER AND WILDFIRE POTENTIAL

Reprinted from the PG&E Website July 16, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — As part of its [Community Wildfire Safety Program](#), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is building a network of weather stations to monitor and further advance its weather forecasting abilities to better predict where a wildfire could occur so it can respond quickly and appropriately to help keep customers and communities safe.



Since January of this year, PG&E has added more than 50 new weather stations, with around 200 total planned to be built and installed across PG&E's service area by the end of the year. The newly added stations are located in Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Marin, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and Tuolumne counties.

Data collected by these stations will be streamed in real time and available to state and local agencies and the public through online sources such as [NOAA](#) and [MesoWest](#).

"We saw first-hand last year how extreme weather events driven by climate change are causing unprecedented and unanticipated wildfires," said Kevin Dasso, PG&E vice president of Electric Asset Management. "Adding new weather stations in high fire-threat areas across our service area enhances our weather forecasting and modeling to help bolster wildfire prevention and response efforts and keep our customers safe."

Real-Time Data to Assess Fire Danger Conditions

PG&E has historically used weather forecast data for many purposes, mainly for predicting storm damage and for assessing fire danger. Its team of meteorologists, which includes fire-weather specialists, performs daily monitoring of current and forecast weather patterns and fire threat projections using in-house and publicly available data from the National Weather Service, CAL FIRE, US Forest Service and more. This information helps PG&E predict when and where the fire threat will be high or extreme so additional steps can be taken to keep critical infrastructure, utility crews and communities safe.

With these new weather stations, PG&E will be able to capture additional real-time data related to temperature, wind speeds and humidity levels to provide improved awareness of current fire danger conditions.

PG&E's meteorologists will feed information to the company's new [Wildfire Safety Operations Center](#) team to review data and determine any needed action to help reduce wildfire risks. In the event of extreme fire danger conditions, one of the actions PG&E may take is temporarily turning off electricity for safety in specific areas. PG&E is reaching out to customers who are served by electric lines in extreme fire-threat areas to let them know about possible power outages during high wildfire threats so they can take steps to prepare.

These new weather stations are one of the additional precautionary measures PG&E is putting in place as part of its Community Wildfire Safety Program, intended to reduce wildfire threats and strengthen communities for the future. More information can be found at pge.com/wildfiresafety.

CPUC STRENGTHENS UTILITY PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR DE-ENERGIZING IN EMERGENCIES

CPUC Press Release Docket #: Res ESRB-8

SAN FRANCISCO, July 12, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in its ongoing commitment to public safety, today ordered all investor-owned electric companies to comply with certain rules and customer notification requirements before de-energizing electric facilities in cases of emergencies. De-energization of an electrical circuit shuts off power to all customers served by that circuit. Utilities are required to operate their systems in a safe and reliable manner. De-energizing electric facilities during dangerous conditions can save lives and property, and can prevent wildfires. The decision by a utility to de-energize facilities for public safety is complex and dependent on many factors including fuel moisture; aerial and ground firefighting capabilities; active fires that indicate dangerous fire conditions; situational awareness provided by fire agencies, the National Weather Service, and the U.S. Forest Service; and local meteorological conditions of humidity and winds.

The CPUC today provided guidelines that the electric utilities must follow and strengthened public safety requirements when a utility decides to de-energize its facilities during dangerous conditions. Prior to today's decision, regulations regarding de-energization applied only to San Diego Gas & Electric. Today's decision extends the existing regulations to all electric investor-owned utilities in California and also strengthens the requirements.

Today's order requires that utilities meet with the local communities that may be impacted by a future de-energization event before putting the practice in effect in a particular area, and requires customer notifications prior to a de-energization event, if feasible. Utilities have 30 days to submit a report to the CPUC outlining their plans regarding public outreach, notification, and mitigation of 2 customer impacts due to de-energization and the resulting power shut-offs. Further, within 90 days, utilities are required to convene De-Energization Informational Workshops with representatives from state agencies, tribal governments, local agencies, and representatives from the local communities that may be affected by a de-energization event. The purpose of these workshops is to explain, and receive feedback on, the utilities' de-energization policies and procedures.

"De-energization can be very helpful during an emergency situation where having electricity flowing is potentially harmful, but it must be done with great thought and with consideration of customers" said Commissioner Liane M. Randolph. "Our decision today helps ensure that utilities communicate early and consistently with communities that will be potentially affected by de-energization."

A utility is required to notify the CPUC as soon as practicable after it decides to de-energize facilities, and to notify the CPUC within 12 hours after all electric service is restored. After a de-energization event, a utility is also required to submit a report to the CPUC explaining the decision to shut off power, its impacts on customers, and other relevant matters. The decision to shut off power may be reviewed by the CPUC as part of its broad jurisdiction over public safety and utility operations.

The proposal voted on is available at:

SCE GOES MOBILE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES

Reprinted from the SCE website, By Mary Ann Millbourn

July 17, 2018 *The mobile command center gives the utility an office in the field to better coordinate responses to fires, rainstorms, earthquakes and other major events.*

When Jim Madia responded to the Erskine Fire in Kern County two years ago, he was ready to put Southern California Edison's mobile command center into immediate action.

The 40-foot-long vehicle operates as an office on wheels, providing workspace and remote communications for field personnel to provide a quicker response to fire, rainstorms, earthquakes and other major events.

What no one counted on that day was that a telecommunications tower was one of the first things to go down in the fire, interrupting phone and digital service throughout the Kern Valley. The mobile command center's communications slowed to a crawl.

"The mobile command center then was designed around rooftop satellite," recalled Madia, now an SCE emergency response exercise specialist. "We just didn't have the bandwidth."

Since then, the mobile command center has been enhanced to provide a full range of telecommunications capabilities, including a Wi-Fi signal onboard and for the immediate area as well as a portable case with a receiver that can create a remote hot spot for internet access out in the field.

"There's always been a need to have some ability to go anywhere in the service territory and establish an office or service center," said Steven Oda, SCE principal manager of Business Resiliency. "This allows a better integration of technology to help speed restoration."



SCE's mobile command center was dispatched to Forest Falls after a snowstorm in the San Bernardino Mountains in 2016 caused a major outage.



SCE staff coordinate restoration work inside the mobile command center at PG&E's staging site after the Santa Rosa fire last year.

Based in Alhambra, the mobile command center is outfitted with two 15-foot slide outs and provides about 440 square feet of workspace. There are six workstations for both laptop and desktop and satellite phones. Extra mobile radios also are available. Office equipment includes a printer, scanner and FAX.

"It provides the resources to people in the field that they would otherwise find in the office," said Pedro Ruiz, SCE's Emergency Operations Center manager who also oversees the mobile command center.

One advantage of dispatching the mobile command center, Ruiz said, is that its distinctive yellow, green and white SCE paint and logo make it easily identifiable.

"Laydown yards can be pretty hectic," Ruiz said. "That makes it really easy for anyone who needs us to find us."

That visibility also makes it easy for the public to locate. In January 2016, after a major snowstorm left the mountain community of Forest Falls without power, the mobile command center set up with SCE customer service staff in an open field off Highway 38 to provide emergency supplies and information to customers. Ruiz said just having a physical presence in communities affected by a wildfire, storm or other event proves valuable.

"It gives our customers peace of mind that the company is out there working to get their power turned on," Ruiz said.

SOCALGAS AND SEMPRA ENERGY COMMIT \$60,000 TO SANTA BARBARA ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY THE THOMAS FIRE AND MONTECITO MUDSLIDES

Reprinted from the SoCalGas website, Pictures provided by Jessica Kinnahan, Emergency Services Manager for SoCalGas

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14, 2018 – [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) and [Semptra Energy](#) today pledged \$60,000 to six Greater Santa Barbara-based nonprofits that have provided disaster relief and support services to the communities affected by the Thomas Fire and Montecito mudslides.

In the aftermath of the recent mudslides in Montecito, dozens of SoCalGas crews worked alongside first responders supporting public safety and restoring heat and hot water to thousands of households.

Donations were pledged to:

- American Red Cross of Central California
- Montecito Now
- Music Academy of the West
- Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation
- Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance
- Santa Barbara Rescue Mission



“SoCalGas crews were on the ground working alongside first responders since the first hours of this disaster, and we want to do our part to continue supporting the rebuilding efforts,” said Trisha Muse, director of community relations at SoCalGas.

“The Thomas Fire created so many first experiences for our community – a first beast of a fire that burned for so long and with such intensity, a first for the mudflows that took the lives of loved ones and friends and a first for the inexplicable destruction of homes and property,” said Paul

Cashman, President of the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance.

“SoCalGas and Semptra Energy have always demonstrated their commitment to our community during a crisis, and their donation will be directly earmarked for the purchase of technical equipment for our local firefighters and first responders.”

“We are only able to provide the lifeline services in our community because individuals and organizations see to it that there is a place in Santa Barbara where those struggling with homelessness and addiction can turn 365 days a year,” said Rolf Geyling, President of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

“We are so grateful to SoCalGas and Semptra Energy for their commitment to our community.”

“We were able to offer SoCalGas a location for their staging operations during natural gas service restoration efforts,” said Scott Reed, President and CEO of the Music Academy of the West. “Helping our neighbors get their heat and hot water back on as quickly as possible after the disaster was important to us, and we were pleased to work with SoCalGas to make that happen.”



UOC RESPONDERS ORIENTATION

So far this year, CUEA has conducted five UOC Responders orientations. Don and Jenny have traveled to Southern California to train SCPPA, SDG&E and Imperial Irrigation District. We have also conducted two classes in the UOC. Gerald Simon of Cal Water brought his team to the UOC for the training and a tour of the State Operations Center. Our second class held in Mather included members from EBMUD, Alameda County Water, CAISO and San Juan Water District. Out of the thirty seven attendees, we have 26 who have committed to support the UOC during an activation. Our next orientation is scheduled for September 10th for SCE employees. We will also be offering more courses at the UOC in Mather. If anyone is interested in having CUEA travel to you for training or if you would like to attend a class in the UOC, please contact Jenny at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov.



Don Boland and the Cal Water Team

CUEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections were held for the seven at large Board of Directors at our annual general membership meeting held at SCE on June 27th. We would like to welcome our newest Directors to the board effective July 1, 2018; Todd Dusenberry from Vernon Public Utilities and Charles Berry from the City of Lodi. The board officers are; Chair Jim Cigler of Verizon Wireless, Vice-Chair Evermary Hickey from PG&E, and Secretary/Treasurer Sam Grandlienard of Southwest Gas. The remaining Board of Directors are Brent Yamasaki (Metropolitan Water), Jeff Briggs (SMUD), Christopher Vicino (Los Angeles Department of Water & Power), Chris Salkeld (AT&T), August Ghio (San Diego Gas & Electric), Donald Daigler (Southern California Edison), Christy Jones (CA Department of Water Resources), and Brandyn Hancocks (Golden State Water).

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE (AREP) TRAINING 9/11/18

CALIFORNIA UTILITIES EMERGENCY ASSOCIATION
IN COOPERATION WITH **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON**
TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

This interagency course is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to function at an Incident Command Post (ICP) or in a local government Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as an Agency Representative. Participants should be associated with a local government/jurisdiction/agency, special district, utility, industry, NGO, or other volunteer support organization who would be called upon to serve in an EOC or Incident Command structure during an emergency or planned event that requires the EOC or an ICP to be activated. It is requested that all participants have completed IS-100 and IS-200 prior to class. These are available on-line at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>.

For more information or to register, contact Jenny at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov

CUEA STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S

ENERGY AND PIPELINE COMMITTEE

Committee members meet quarterly to assess current and potential issues, which could impact the dependability of energy supplies within the operational systems and vulnerabilities within the organizations continuity plans. As a result the committee has shared successes and experiences relating to emergency preparedness issues such as Employee Emergency Preparedness Programs, lessons learned and newly innovative programs such as Nationwide Security Identification for First Responders and Credentialing of First Responders. Through invaluable information sharing and implementation of updated notification protocols, the Energy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that California is able to meet energy demands and protect its most critical infrastructure. Rod Wheeler from CAISO is the Chair of the committee. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

TRAINING & EXERCISE COMMITTEE

The Training and Exercise Committee was formed to research, review and develop courses to heighten awareness of and offer education relating to the emergency management field. Barbara Winn of AT&T has volunteered to be the new Chair this committee. If you are interested in being a part of the training committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

Also, if you have any upcoming exercises or training that you would like to have posted on the CUEA website, send them to jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov.

WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

This committee has been diligent in its efforts to strengthen the water/waste water emergency response community. The ongoing information sharing between member organizations has proved to be of great value. Exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and emergency related templates between organizations have led to improved processes within the water/waste water arena.

Steve Frew of East Bay Municipal Utility District serves as the Chair of this committee and holds quarterly conference calls to focus on Water security, preparedness, and response. Committee members exchange information on how their companies are dealing with theft, protection of sensitive information, as well as upgrades to security policies and technology. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Steve Frew at steven.frew@ebmud.com or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

ALERT



**REPRESENTING:
POWER-GAS-TELECOM
WATER/WASTEWATER**

WWW.CUEAINC.COM

**PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES
FOR OUR NEXT
SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 12/15/18:
JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV**

**PLEASE WELCOME T-MOBILE
AS THE
NEWEST MEMBER TO JOIN THE CUEA FAMILY**