



Southern California Edison Backgrounder

Contact: Corporate Communications: 626-302-2255, www.edison.com/pressroom



San Onofre Plant's Rigorous Community Emergency Response Preparation

The greatest responsibility of those who operate Southern California Edison's (SCE) San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station near San Clemente is protecting the health and safety of the public and plant workers. To meet this responsibility, SCE actively partners with community representatives, continuously providing plant updates and responding to community questions and concerns. While large generating facilities provide significant economic benefit to host communities, their operations can also raise questions among our neighbors about public safety. SCE believes in an open, collaborative approach to communication and emergency planning.



In the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency, SCE would use an emergency classification system employed by all U.S. nuclear plant operators to inform community officials and the public about developments at the San Onofre facility.

Emergency Classification System

Unusual Event – If an “unusual event” is announced, it means something has happened that could lower plant safety but has not resulted in a release of radioactive material.

Alert – An “alert” would be declared if events at the plant create an actual reduction in plant safety. It would mean plant operators believe that if a release of radioactive material occurred it would be well below safe exposure guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Site Area Emergency – This declaration would mean events were occurring that create an imminent or actual failure of a plant system related to public safety. Such a notice would mean plant operators believe that any release of radioactive material could exceed EPA limits but only inside and immediately adjacent to plant property

General Emergency – A “general emergency” announcement is the highest level of emergency declaration and 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.

A Partnership of Public Protection

Edison is part of an emergency planning association of local and state agencies called the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC) which includes representatives of:

- City of Dana Point
- City of San Clemente
- City of San Juan Capistrano
- Orange County
- San Diego County
- California State Parks
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton



The group regularly collaborates and drills on emergency procedures designed to ensure the public would receive prompt, vital assistance should a nuclear emergency occur.

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 a broadcast news station for public safety information. Each fall, the IPC conducts a highly publicized siren test designed to ensure that the public is familiar with the distinctive steady tone of the sirens and understands what their use would mean – turn on a radio or TV for community emergency information.



Emergency Preparation – Everyone's Responsibility

All 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 help preparing such a plan.

Information also is published in the Customer Guide section of South Orange County and San Diego North County coastal telephone directories. Here are some websites where such information can be found:

- www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html
- www.sdcountyemergency.com
- www.ReadyOC.org
- www.danapoint.org
- www.san-clemente.org
- www.sanjuancapistrano.org