

HAZARDS AND THREATS

Nuclear Power Plant Generating Stations Introduction

Quick Facts about San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant (NPP)

- Operated by Southern California Edison (SCE), an Edison International Company.

Quick Fact about San Onofre NPP Alerts and Warning Systems

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 broadcast news station for public safety information.

- **Emergency Classification System (Source: SCE Backgrounder Document for San Onofre NPP)**
 - **Unusual Event**

If an “Unusual Event” is announced, it means that 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 if a release of radioactive material occurred it would be below safe exposure guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - **Site Area Emergency**

A “Site Area Emergency” 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.

SCE is part of an emergency planning association of local and State agencies called the Inter-jurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC) which includes the following representatives:

- City of Dana Point
- City of San Clemente
- City of San Juan Capistrano
- Orange County
- San Diego County
- California State Parks
- U.S. Marine Corp. Base at Camp Pendleton

This committee meets regularly collaborates and drill on emergency procedures designed to ensure the public would receive prompt, vital assistance should a nuclear emergency occur.

NOTE: On April 14, 2011, law enforcement, fire, public health, emergency management, emergency services, state parks, military and agriculture representatives from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties participated in the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Ingestion Pathway Exercise (IPX). The 2011 SONG IPX was a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluated exercise.



Emergency Preparation – Everyone’s Responsibility and Duty

All Southern California families and businesses should have an emergency plan to guide their response to disasters, natural or otherwise. It is highly recommended for families and businesses to make the effort to contact their community, local, State and Federal government emergency management offices as these organizations and others have emergency preparedness information readily available to assist families and businesses in preparing for this and other types of emergencies and/or disasters.

Last Modified: 7-2-12 1625