



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL W. DYER  
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### - Southern California Edison Safety Reminders -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. December 1, 2011 – The Santa Barbara County Fire Department would like to pass along the following Southern California Edison (SCE) safety reminders:

With high winds forecast, SCE wants to remind its customers to be prepared in case of weather-related outages and suggests:

- If you know someone who is dependent on electrically operated medical equipment, make backup power arrangements in case a power outage affects that equipment.
- Watch for traffic signals that may be out. Approach those intersections as four-way stops.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and flashlights. Check the batteries to make sure they are fresh. Use flashlights for lighting during a power outage; do not use candles because they pose a significant fire hazard.
- Do not use equipment indoors that is designed for outdoor cooking. Such equipment can emit carbon monoxide and other toxic gases.
- Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. Place blocks of ice inside to help keep food cold. Check food carefully for signs of spoilage.
- Check on your neighbors to make sure everyone is safe.
- If you use a generator, place it outdoors and plug individual appliances directly into the generator, using a heavy-duty extension cord. Connecting generators directly to household circuits creates “back feed,” which is dangerous to repair crews.
- **If you see a downed line or dangling wire — even if it appears not to be live — don’t touch or approach it and call 911 immediately.**

## Contact Information:

Captain David Sadecki  
Information Officer  
Office 805.681-5531  
Cell 805.689-0599  
News Line 805.681-5546  
Email [david.sadecki@sbcfire.com](mailto:david.sadecki@sbcfire.com)

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