



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Stephanie McCorkle
Director of Communications
1 (888) 516-NEWS

Brush Fire Forces Southern California Power Outage

Automatic Load-Shedding Prevents Wider Outage

(Folsom CA) A brushfire along Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass that began as a car-fire resulted in a wide-spread, but short-lived power outage in Southern California Wednesday evening at about 6:15 p.m. The outage was triggered when heavy smoke forced three 500 kilovolt transmission lines to “relay” or trip off line. Automatic equipment sensed the loss of that power flow, and reacted instantly to protect equipment elsewhere on the transmission system. The result was a loss of 1450 megawatts in Southern California Edison’s service territory, representing approximately 460,000 customers.

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) immediately responded by ordering more generation on line to meet the loss. Working with Southern California Edison, power for some customers was restored after just seven minutes. Almost all customers were back in service by 7:00 p.m. with final restoration achieved by 8:00 p.m.

The three power lines that tripped off line, Lugo-Serrano and Lugo-Mira Loma 1 and 2, remain out of service Wednesday night, and it is unclear when they can be put back into service. The ISO has issued a restricted maintenance order for Southern California that’s in effect through midnight, Thursday June 27. This is simply a request to transmission and generator owners not to do any maintenance on their facilities that could result in them tripping off line.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity along California’s open-market wholesale power grid. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, and ensure equal access to a 25,000 circuit miles of “electron highway”. As the impartial operator of the wholesale power grid in the state, the California ISO conducts a small portion of the bulk power markets. These markets are used to allocate space on the transmission lines, maintain operating reserves and match supply with demand in real time.

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