

News Release

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California ISO to participate in national electric grid emergency drill Federal agency tests response to simulated cyber and physical attacks

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) will participate in a national emergency drill on Wednesday, Nov. 13, and Thursday, Nov. 14 to test the electric industry's response to simulated attacks against the electric grid.

Residents and businesses along Business Park Drive in the City of Lincoln may see local, state and federal emergency vehicles and personnel from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 13, and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Nov. 14.

Hosted by the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC), the drill is held every two years to test the response to and recovery from simulated cyber and physical security threats and attacks to the nation's electric grid. Electric industry entities from across the U.S. are participating, including many western balancing authorities, and RC West and Western Energy Imbalance Market entities.

"This drill will give us the opportunity to review and coordinate our emergency response protocols with local, state and federal agencies, along with our electric industry partners, to better protect the nation's electric infrastructure," said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. "The ISO works year round to prepare for any scenario that may threaten the safety of our employees and to maintain grid reliability, and this drill will help us refine those protections."

The ISO is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage, long-distance power lines that make up 80 percent of California's and a small part of Nevada's grid. The ISO is one of the largest, and most modern power grids in the world and works diligently to meet the needs of consumers, while integrating increasing amounts of renewable energy to meet California's carbon reductions mandate.

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The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.