



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 14, 2000

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### **STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY DECLARED AFTER NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE AFFECTS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY ACROSS OREGON BORDER**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) is issuing a Stage Two Electrical Emergency today as operating reserves fall below five percent. The Stage Two is in effect from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Continued heat exacerbated by a fire that erupted near the Oregon border led to the Stage Two declaration. The fire was reportedly caused when a transmission line that is part of the crucial California Oregon Intertie (COI) sagged into a tree, igniting the fire. Power deliveries headed into California on the path of lines that make up the COI have been cut by several hundred megawatts.

Additionally, a total of 3,964 megawatts of power plant units are off line today due to mechanical failure or planned maintenance that could not be postponed. The peak demand on the California-ISO Grid is expected to reach 40,482 megawatts around 4 p.m. today.

At this time, the California ISO will attempt to maintain stability of the transmission system without activating voluntary load management programs. However, implementation of the interruptible load programs may be necessary if operating reserves dwindle further. **The ISO urges interruptible customers to wait to shed their contracted electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility.** Interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, receive a reduced rate in exchange for a commitment to come off line when

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asked to do so for reliability purposes.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three will be initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including “rotating blackouts,” are possible during this emergency declaration. The California ISO’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is part of the state’s enhanced reliability standards created by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890, which restructured California’s electricity industry. A Stage One Emergency, urging Californians to conserve as much energy as possible, was called at 11 a.m. and is effect through 8 p.m. this evening.

California ISO is chartered by the state to manage the flow of electricity along the long-distance, high-voltage power lines that make up the bulk of California’s transmission system. The not-for-profit public-benefit corporation assumed the responsibility in March, 1998, when California opened its energy markets to competition and the state’s investor-owned utilities turned their private transmission power lines over to the California ISO to manage. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, facilitate markets and ensure equal access to a 12,500 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand is available on the web at [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com).

Other helpful contacts:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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