



NEWS RELEASE

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

ISO, Utilities Wrap Up Summer Reliability Workshops

California Electricity Industry Prepare for Summer Heat

(Folsom, CA) For the past five weeks, crews of energy dispatchers from around the state have been rotating in and out of Folsom for week-long summer preparedness workshops hosted by the California Independent System Operator (California ISO). The workshops are designed to refine and enhance power grid operation skills, knowledge and response time in recognizing and managing adverse conditions that can impact the high-voltage electric grid.

Trainers from all the utilities developed the summer workshop series in a collaborative effort that brought California's electricity industry together. "We had investor owned utilities, municipal utilities, as well as grid reliability coordinators from the western regions," said ISO Vice President of Operations Jim Detmers. "It is a valuable opportunity to get operators together to run drills and prepare for multiple conditions that can affect the power grid." Approximately 320 people participated in the workshops, representing more than ninety percent of the dispatchers that operate California's high voltage electric grid.

The workshops consist of training and drills primarily focused on restoring the electric grid in case of system disturbances. The exercises put dispatchers through challenging grid scenarios, which require them to react to adverse grid conditions as they would in real time. This type of pre-summer preparation improves reliability by fostering communication, decision-making, transfer of knowledge, and an understanding of each organizations operational procedures.

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“There’s nothing like this type of face-to-face interaction,” said ISO Director of Grid Operations Jim (Mac) McIntosh. “We do business on the phone frequently but when you work together in person, for a week at a time, you really get a strong sense that we are in it for a common goal—to keep the lights on.”

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 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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