



A  Sempra Energy utility™

MAY 2006

ENERGY NOTES

*Serving you today.  
Planning for tomorrow.™*

# HELPING YOU *stay safe around energy*

Whether you're flipping a light switch or cooking a meal, electricity and natural gas are a routine part of life. As a result, it's easy to forget how powerful energy can be – and the importance of being careful around it.



Activating the Emergency Operations Center during a crisis is just one of the ways that SDG&E helps ensure public safety, notes Ed Guiles, SDG&E chairman and chief executive officer, shown at the center.

“Ensuring your safety is a top priority at SDG&E,” says Ed Guiles, chairman and chief executive officer. “As part of our commitment to providing safe, reliable energy, public safety considerations are an integral part of our operations, especially when we’re responding to a crisis and our Emergency Operations Center is activated.”

Public safety has been part of the way SDG&E has done business since our beginning in 1881. Our ongoing efforts to help people stay safe around energy include:

- **Identifying overhead and underground lines.** Signs and markers show where SDG&E’s gas and electric facilities are located and alert the public to the hazards of coming in contact with them.
- **Locating buried utilities to prevent dig-in dangers.** SDG&E will mark the location of underground facilities when you call Underground Service Alert, 1-800-227-2600, at least two workdays before excavating.
- **Limiting access to substations.** SDG&E fences off substations, posts warnings about the high-voltage equipment in them, and restricts entry to authorized personnel.

*(Continued inside – see “Helping you...”)*

# AN ILLUMINATING EXCHANGE: Trade your old lights for new ones

SDG&E will give you new, energy-efficient lights in exchange for your old, inefficient ones – at no cost – when you attend a Lighting Turn-in Program event. You can bring up to five incandescent light bulbs (75 watts or higher) to exchange for the same number of compact fluorescent lights and up to two halogen torchiere floor lamps to exchange for the same number of energy-efficient floor lamps. The new lighting can help lower your monthly energy costs and may last up to 10 times longer than standard lighting.

For a schedule of Lighting Turn-in events, call **1-800-411-SDGE (7343)** or visit [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com), and look under “Residential” then “Lighting Turn-in Program” on the right-hand side. To exchange your old lights, you’ll need to fill out an application and show a valid California driver’s license or identification card and your current SDG&E bill, since the trade-in limit applies per household per year.



SDG&E is offering energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights and floor lamps in exchange for incandescent light bulbs and halogen torchiere floor lamps.

## Got solar or wind power? Hook up with SDG&E



You can receive credits for electricity produced by your solar or wind turbine generation system when you participate in SDG&E’s Net Energy Metering program.

If you’re installing a system that converts sunlight or wind into electricity for your home or business, check into SDG&E’s Net Energy Metering program. To participate, you need to have your solar or wind turbine generation system approved for interconnection with SDG&E’s electrical grid. SDG&E can then measure the “net” difference between the electricity produced by your system and the electricity supplied by SDG&E. Net energy metering allows you to bank the energy your system produces and withdraw energy later when your system isn’t generating electricity. You receive credits for the electricity your system produces for up to 100% of your total annual consumption.

In addition, cash incentives may be available for eligible solar and wind generation systems. For more information, visit [www.sdge.com/solar](http://www.sdge.com/solar).

# When seasons change, so do your energy bills

Your energy bills vary seasonally, and not just because of the weather. As spring turns to summer, two factors about energy rates can affect your energy bills, too.

- 1. Electric rates switch to summer levels.** In 2001, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) set electric rates slightly higher from May 1 through Sept. 30 than during other months. The goal is to encourage conservation so power resources don't get stretched too thin to meet the increased demand for air-conditioning, refrigeration and pool/spa filtration.
- 2. Summer baseline allowances start.** Every year, baseline allowances for both natural gas and electricity switch from winter to summer levels on May 1 and continue through Oct. 31. These daily allowances provide you with some energy for basic needs at the lowest, or baseline, rates. The CPUC set baseline allowances and rates for energy distribution only, not the energy itself.

Helping you understand your energy bill is part of SDG&E's commitment to exceptional customer service. For more information about your energy bill, call 1-800-411-SDGE (7343) or visit [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com).

## Helping you... *(continued from cover)*

- **Trimming trees away from power lines.** Preventing vegetation from contacting overhead and underground power lines helps avoid outages, fires and life-threatening situations.
- **Preventing potential hazards.** SDG&E performs appliance safety checks, carbon monoxide tests, gas leak investigations, arcing/sparking electrical equipment tests and other services.

For more energy safety information, please visit [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com).



Even friendly dogs may bite under certain circumstances, so be sure to secure your dog when your SDG&E meter reader visits. You'll find your meter-reading date on each SDG&E bill.

## For safe service, **SECURE YOUR DOG**

National Dog Bite Prevention Week – May 21 to 27, 2006 – serves as a caution that even friendly dogs may attack to protect their people, their turf or themselves. You can help prevent dog bites by securing your dog when your SDG&E meter reader visits or when you have an appointment for an SDG&E safety check-up, appliance adjustment or other in-home service. Please mark your calendar with the meter-reading date that appears on each SDG&E bill, and provide a safe path to the meters by confining your canine on those days. With your help, SDG&E employees can provide you with top service safely.



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## NOTICIAS DE ENERGÍA

### AYUDAMOS A USAR la energía con seguridad

Ya sea que la use para prender la luz o preparar comida, la electricidad y el gas natural son una parte rutinaria de la vida. Por consiguiente, es fácil olvidar cuán poderosa puede ser la energía – y la importancia de tener cuidado con ella.

“Garantizar su seguridad tiene prioridad absoluta en SDG&E,” afirma Ed Guiles, presidente y director general. “Como parte de nuestro compromiso de proveer energía segura y confiable, las consideraciones de seguridad pública son una parte integral de nuestras operaciones, especialmente cuando estamos respondiendo a una crisis y nuestro Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia está activado.”

La seguridad pública ha sido parte de la forma en que SDG&E ha trabajado desde que iniciamos operaciones en 1881. El esfuerzo continuo que hacemos para ayudar a la gente a hacer un uso seguro de la energía incluye:

- **Identificar líneas de transmisión aéreas y subterráneas.** Los señalamientos e indicadores muestran dónde están ubicadas las instalaciones de gas y electricidad de SDG&E y alertan al público acerca de los riesgos de entrar en contacto con ellas.
- **Localizar líneas enterradas para prevenir peligros al excavar.** SDG&E indicará la ubicación de las instalaciones de servicios

públicos que están en el subsuelo cuando llame a Underground Service Alert, al 1-800-227-2600,

cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de excavar.

- **Limitar el acceso a subestaciones.** SDG&E separa con una cerca las subestaciones, coloca letreros de advertencia acerca del equipo de alto voltaje que hay en ellas, y restringe la entrada a personal autorizado.
- **Podar árboles para separarlos de los cables eléctricos.** Prevenir que la vegetación entre en contacto con una línea de transmisión eléctrica aérea y subterránea ayuda a evitar apagones, incendios y situaciones que amenacen la vida.
- **Prevenir riesgos potenciales.** SDG&E realiza verificaciones de seguridad en aparatos domésticos, pruebas de monóxido de carbono, investigaciones de fugas de gas, pruebas de arqueado voltaico/chispas en equipo eléctrico y otros servicios.

Para mayor información de seguridad, sírvase visitar [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com).



Activar el Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia durante una crisis es tan sólo una de las formas en que SDG&E ayuda a garantizar la seguridad pública, señala Ed Guiles, presidente y director general de SDG&E, quien aparece en el centro.

### PROGRAMA DE INTERCAMBIO DE LÁMPARAS Y FOCOS: Cambie los viejos por unos nuevos

SDG&E le regalará lámparas y focos nuevos eficientes en energía a cambio de sus focos y lámparas viejos e ineficientes, sin costo alguno, si asiste al evento del Programa *Lighting Turn-in*. Puede traer hasta cinco focos incandescentes (de 75 vatios o más) para canjearlos por el mismo número de focos fluorescentes compactos; y hasta dos lámparas de halógeno, de piso, para intercambiarlas por el mismo número de lámparas eficientes en energía. Los nuevos focos y lámparas pueden ayudarle a reducir el costo mensual de la energía y le pudieran durar hasta 10 veces más que las lámparas y focos normales.

Si desea conocer el calendario de los eventos de intercambio de focos y lámparas, llame al 1-800-311-SDGE (7343) o visite [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com), y haga clic en “español” y después “Programa de intercambio de focos (*Lighting Turn-in*).” Para canjear sus lámparas y focos viejos, necesitará llenar una solicitud y presentar una identificación o licencia de conductor vigente del estado de California y su última factura de SDG&E, porque hay un límite de intercambios por hogar y por año.