

Southern California Edison Company

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
NUCLEAR AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

P. O. BOX 4198

SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA 92674-4198

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REGION V

September 16, 1993

Dear IPC Member:

SUBJECT: SONGS Community Alert Siren System Test


The annual test of the Community Alert Siren System surrounding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 1993.

All 52 sirens around the plant will sound twice for two to five minutes each time between 10:00 am and noon. They will be heard in the area around the plant, including San Onofre State Park and Camp Pendleton, and the cities of San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point.

As in the past, public awareness of the test will be enhanced by a direct-mail notice to every customer in the Emergency Planning zone, posters to beach and park visitors, video tape to local public facilities, care facilities, hotels and cable companies and a news release (see attached). In addition, a radio message will be submitted through the Emergency Management Division for activation of the Emergency Broadcast System on the morning of the test. A copy of the Community Alert Siren System is enclosed for your information.

It is possible, but unlikely, that your customer telephone information personnel may receive calls regarding the siren test. Such calls may be referred to me at PAX 88334.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Wallace
Supervisor, Emergency Planning

Enclosure

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Southern California Edison

News Release

P. O. Box 800
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

For additional
information call:

Sherry Folsom or
David Barron (818) 302-2255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ANNUAL SIREN TEST SET SEPT. 22
IN COMMUNITIES NEAR SAN ONOFRE**

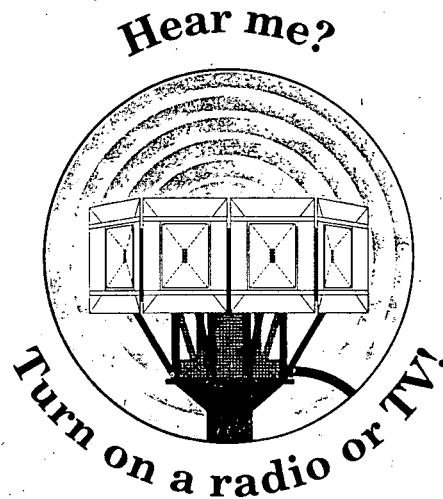
A system of more than 50 community alert sirens in the vicinity of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station will be tested Wednesday, Sept. 22, according to Southern California Edison, operator of the energy facility.

All of the sirens will be sounded twice, for two to five minutes between 10 a.m. and noon. Sirens are located at the San Onofre State Park, Camp Pendleton, and in the communities of San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point and unincorporated areas of south Orange County.

Flyers and posters announcing the scheduled test have been distributed and mailed to inform residents in the communities near the San Onofre power plant. The test is being conducted in cooperation with local governmental agencies and jurisdictions.

The sirens are required by federal regulations in the event of a nuclear emergency. They are intended to advise residents to turn on their radios or television sets for emergency instructions, an Edison spokesperson said. The sirens also may be used by local government to inform residents of other emergency conditions.

Community Alert Siren System



The Community Alert Siren System is a network of sirens located within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The EPZ includes the cities of Dana Point, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano, Camp Pendleton, San Onofre State Park and the unincorporated areas of South Orange County within ten miles of the plant. A community alert system is required by federal regulations in case of a nuclear emergency at San Onofre.

The system of sirens has been designed and each one strategically placed by sound engineers to alert people within the EPZ. These sirens, with a tonal quality very similar to that of a fog horn, have overlapping coverage. This is to guarantee a minimum decibel (dB) sound level rating of 60 dB throughout the EPZ. The highest background noise rated within the EPZ is approximately 50 dB. The 60 dB rating meets the federal requirement of 10 dB above the highest background noise level. To put this in another perspective, ordinary conversation at three feet away is approximately 60 dB, thunder is approximately 100 dB at close range, the average office noise is approxi-

mately 40 dB, and amplified rock music is approximately 120 dB.

These sirens can be used if a nuclear accident or other type of emergency occurs which could affect the local area. If a problem occurs at San Onofre, plant officials will immediately notify local, state, and federal officials. If action by the public is needed, the siren system will be activated by the local governmental officials. The purpose of sounding the sirens is to alert the public to tune into a local Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) station for emergency information. The call numbers of the EBS stations are listed in the front of the South Orange County Pacific Bell Telephone Directory.

The siren will emit a long, steady fog horn type tone which lasts for two to five minutes. During the annual full siren system test, the sirens are sounded twice within two hours. No action is required by the public during this yearly publicized test. In addition, each siren is also tested monthly and quarterly during the routine maintenance cycle. If there were a real emergency, resi-

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