HAZARDS AND THREATS

Power Outages Information

What Causes Power Outages?

- Storms
- Trees
- Vehicles
- Earthquakes
- Animals
- Lightning
- Excavation Digging
- High Power Demand

Power Outage – Storms

Wind, heat, ice and snow are the most common causes of widespread power outages.

Power Outage – Trees

During high winds, or trimming by an untrained professional, limbs can come into contact with power lines, causing power interruptions.

**NOTE:** Planting trees near power lines is not recommended.

Power Outage – Vehicles

A vehicle accident with a utility pole can cause a power outage.

Power Outage – Earthquakes

Earthquakes of all sizes can damage electrical facilities and power lines.

Power Outage - Animals

Squirrels, birds, and other small animals may cause power lines to short circuit.

Power Outage – Lightning

When lightning strikes electrical equipment, transmission towers, wires, and poles, outages occur.
Excavation Digging

Sometimes underground cable is disturbed by either digging, people gardening or placing fence posts.

Power Outage - High Power Demand

During heat waves and other times of unusually high power demand, overburdened electric cables, transformers, and other electrical equipment can melt and fail.

(Source: Southern California Edison)

Last Modified: 7-3-12 1512