Cross Sector and Emergency Operations Coordination

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Cross Sector Coordination

- Wildfires pose a major threat to California
  - Half of the most destructive wildfires in California history are attributed to electrical infrastructure.
  - In 2012, the California Public Utilities Commission ruled that utilities could proactively de-energize electric circuits for public safety which is known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS.

- The 2020 wildfire season was anticipated as being one of the most volatile seasons in recent history.
  - The SOS worked to engage the state’s major utilities companies in an effort to be prepared for the impact of public safety power shutoffs or wildfires in advance of the November 2020 election.
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- **Major Utilities** —
  - Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
  - Southern California Edison (SoCal Edison)
  - San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE)

- **2020 Activity**
  - Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Risk Map
    - Projected the likelihood that a tabulation or polling place would be impacted by a PSPS event
  - Backup generation efforts, especially focused on tabulation locations
  - PSPS Briefing by Utilities for Local Officials
  - Coordinated information sharing on Sunday October 24 regarding a PSPS event that impacted 466,000 customers in Northern California
  - Coordinated ballot delivery to individuals affected by wildfire evacuations

- According to CalFire, the 2020 fire season was the largest wildfire season recorded in California’s modern history with 4.2 million acres burned
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- 2021-2022 Activity
  - Backup generation efforts expanded. All county tabulation locations confirmed to have backup generation removing the need for generators.

- Briefing by Utilities for Local Officials
  - Information provided on new programs such as Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)

- Election Day support provided for several counties that experienced power loss either at vote centers, satellite offices, or tabulation sites.
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- Future Program Ideas

- SOS staff are investigating the opportunity to expand the program to include additional sectors such as telecommunications

- SOS may leverage relationships with the California Election Security Task Force to further develop incident response and coordination protocols
Election Security Task Force

- Developed in 2017 in recognition that state and federal parties needed to develop routine communication and information sharing practices, California’s Election Security Task Force brings together state and federal agencies to coordinate security, information sharing, and training for the elections infrastructure sector.
Election Security Task Force

- Members:
  - CA Secretary of State
  - California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
    - State Threat Assessment Center (STAC)
    - Cyber Security Integration Center (CSIC)
  - California Highway Patrol
  - DHS
    - CISA
    - ODNI
  - FBI
  - Fusion Centers
  - US Postal Inspection Service
Election Security Task Force

- Key Projects
  - Election Intelligence Support and Communications Plan
  - Annual Election Security Training Series
  - Threat Intelligence Briefing for Local Officials
  - Physical Security Considerations Checklist
Election Security Task Force

**Benefits**

- Elections Officials educate security teams about key election concerns
- Elections Officials provide critical information requirements to define election incidents
- Regular communication builds trust and working relationships
- Locals are better able to take advantage of numerous resources
- Security teams can tailor products to the needs of local elections offices
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