

Ensuring Homes, Businesses, Schools, and Communities Are Prepared for Emergencies

Preparedness experts agree that planning for natural disasters can significantly increase our ability to manage a life-threatening situation. For that reason, preparedness education and training is important not just for personal safety but also for keeping our loved ones and communities safe.

Because Southern California is an area prone to earthquakes and other types of natural disasters, Southern California Edison has joined forces with the American Red Cross to prepare our communities for the "Big One" and other emergencies. In 2012, the American Red Cross with founding partner Edison International launched PrepareSoCal, a three-year preparedness campaign. Our mutual objective is for Southern California residents to: Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed.

Get a Kit

At minimum, the American Red Cross recommends that you have the following items in your emergency kit:

- Water: One gallon per person, per day. A three-day supply is recommended for evacuation. A two-week supply is recommended if you stay in your home. Also, don't forget to provide for your pets.
- Non-perishable Food: Easy to open and prepare food items are preferable. A three-day supply is recommended for evacuation. A two-week supply is recommended if you stay in your home. And, don't forget to provide for your pets.
- First aid kit
- Medications

Make a Plan

Families can and do cope with disaster by preparing in advance, and working together as a team. Create a family disaster plan including a communication plan, disaster supplies kit, and an evacuation plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

- Find out what could happen to you
- Make a disaster plan
- Complete the checklist
- Practice your plan

Be Informed

Emergency events can range from those affecting only you and your family, such as a home fire or medical emergency, to those affecting your entire community, such as an earthquake or flood.

- Attend local American Red Cross preparedness events.
- Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels. Know the difference between different weather alerts, such as watches and warnings and what actions to take in each.

- Know what actions to take to protect you and your family during disasters that occur in areas where you travel or have moved recently. For example, if you travel to a place where earthquakes are common and you are not familiar with them, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself should one occur.
- When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR, and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations.
- Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed.

To learn more about the American Red Cross and SCE Safety programs visit:

- SCE Safety Website at www.sce.com/staysafe
- American Red Cross Website at www.preparesocal.org
- The SCE YouTube Channel at Safety Playlist

CUSTOMER FOCUS

High-Tech Entrepreneurship - QuinStar Engineers Find Success with Energy Management

Leo Fong, President and CEO of QuinStar Technology, had over two decades of experience with large and small engineering firms before starting his own company, a maker of high-tech electronic components and hardware modules for government agencies and the military. QuinStar's products are used in radar systems, satellite communications, and space exploration. About sixty people work in QuinStar's headquarters, leaving plenty of room to expand in a building designed to accommodate a larger operation. That extra room makes energy management a challenge.

"Despite the up-and-down nature of the business, there's a significant amount of aerospace work in Southern California, and we're committed to the future here," Fong says. "This is our third location in the area. Some companies like ours left because of the cost of living, but the human capital and the customer base here are perfect for a business like ours. We intend to grow by doing the best possible work and by managing our costs wisely. Southern California Edison (SCE) offers us energy efficiency solutions that help us maximize the return we get on energy expenses. I think I have a great business resource in SCE."

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Energy Management: Winning in Detail

QuinStar's sprawling plant houses a large machine shop, design labs, and a micro-assembly shop staffed by technicians who build devices so small they must view them under microscopes. There's plenty of room to grow, but the underused space draws energy and adds to the overall costs of the operation. A small savings led to more dramatic improvements. "Our energy management awareness started when our local Fire Department came by and looked at our Exit signs," Fong says, "and I realized that the light bulbs in those signs generate a lot of wasted heat. Obviously the financial impact of that was small, but a little detail like that can get you thinking – our contracts are very stringently enforced, and we can't go over costs on operational items like materials or energy, so any wasted expense impacts our bottom line. While we replaced those inefficient signs free of charge on a rebated program, we looked around our whole plant for more of those energy-wasting places that we'd been taking for granted. We talked with SCE, and we found there was good potential here for meaningful savings in lighting."

"The quality of lighting in our plant is critical," Fong continues. "We're assembling machines using wires about one-third the diameter of a human hair and these devices need to function perfectly under the harshest conditions. The high-efficiency lighting SCE suggested has enhanced the comfort and efficiency of our technicians, and saved us money as well. Today, by following their advice and taking advantage of SCE's rebates and special offers on energy-efficiency equipment, I'd estimate we're saving about \$1,000 a month, and in eighteen months to two years, the new investments in energy efficiency and energy management we've made will pay for themselves."

"Some people treat energy as a more-is-better expense, but that's now how we work," says Fong. "We found we don't need to compromise the quality of our products or our environment to save electricity – we can optimize both."

An Energy-Effective Collaboration

Our collaboration with SCE has been great because our companies think alike," Fong says. "QuinStar is an engineering company. Efficiency in every method isn't just about the cost; it's a source of personal satisfaction to us as well. SCE understands what we want to achieve, and they've been a source of ideas and practical energy-management measures to help us get there."

This case study is presented for informational purposes only. Savings and incentives will vary by project. SCE programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

QuinStar Technology: Estimated Savings by Managing Energy

Location: Torrance, California

Industry: Manufacturing

SCE Programs Utilized: Express Solutions

Results: \$1,000 monthly electricity savings using SCE's Express Efficiency Program for rebates on energy-efficient compact fluorescent lighting; further savings through de-lamping in underutilized spaces.

To learn more about SCE's Energy Efficiency offerings contact your account representative or visit:

- o www.sce.com/express_solutions
- o www.sce.com/customized_solutions
- o www.savingsbydesign.com

Earn Even More Savings with Other SCE Energy Management Solutions

- Southern California Edison offers a range of programs that provide rebates, incentives, energy surveys, and payment options to help you better manage your electricity costs. To learn more, please contact your SCE account representative, call (800) 990-7788, or visit us at www.sce.com/business.
- SCE's Energy Education Centers offer free hands-on workshops that highlight use of energy management and energy efficiency solutions to help your organization save energy, money and the environment. Check the class schedules and register at www.sce.com/energycenters.