## Pacific Gas and Electric Company Nevada County Board of Supervisors

August 8, 2023



# Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk



**PGSE** 

PG&E's high fire-risk area map helps us target wildfire mitigation efforts in the areas and communities at highest risk.



## **Key Wildfire Safety Objectives This Year**

## **Prevent** Wildfires

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## **Reduce** Impacts to Communities



## Enhance Customer Support



### **Situational Awareness in Nevada County**

To better predict and respond to wildfire risk and severe weather around the clock, we built the largest utility-owned weather monitoring network in the country.



Weather stations installed through 2022

29

8



Customers can view our interactive weather map at **pge.com/weather** 



Data as of 6/30/2023. Locations are approximate and may overlap.

# **Overhead System Hardening**



**PG&E is strengthening its electric system by hardening powerlines.** This includes replacing overhead lines and equipment with stronger and more resilient materials.

#### Our overhead hardening includes installing:

- Stronger poles
- Larger crossarms
- Covered powerlines

#### **Overhead hardening benefits include:**

- Mitigating the risk of wildfires
- Enhancing long-term safety
- Improving reliability



### **Overhead System Hardening in Nevada County**

53



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Miles completed through 2022

Customers can learn more at pge.com/systemhardening



Data as of 03/27/2023. Locations are approximate and may overlap. Work plans are subject to change due to weather, access and permitting. Annual mileage forecasts exceed annual targets.

## **Vegetation Management**



### **Keeping Trees Away From Powerlines**

When trees are too close to powerlines, they can cause outages and serious safety issues. That's why each year we:

- Inspect ~100,000 miles of overhead powerlines
  - Prune or cut down more than 1 million trees that are an unsafe distance from the line
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- Address dead, dying or hazard trees
- Conduct additional trimming around lines that have had a lot of vegetation-caused outages



## **Tree Work in Your Community**

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	Non-High Fire-Threat Districts	High Fire-Threat Districts
Work	Year-round vegetation work to meet state standards	Year-round work <b>plus</b> additional inspections, tree-trimming/removals and clearance
Safety Clearance	Minimum of 1.5-feet around the line	Minimum of 4-feet around the line
Powerline Miles	209	1,674
		Data is approximate

#### High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) Map

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) map designates areas most at risk for wildfire.

Tier 3– Extreme

- Nevada County

Tier 2– Elevated

Outside PG&E's service area

## **Working With Customers**

Customers can expect the following when vegetation management work is being conducted in their communities:



- Advance notifications before inspections or tree work begins on your property
- Inspections to identify potential safety concerns
- 3
- **Tree work** following the inspection to complete any necessary safety work



**Safety and quality checks** through follow-up inspections to ensure work meets the required safety standards



# **Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings**



## **Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings: A Technology to Prevent Wildfires**

## **How It Works**

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Turning off power within one-tenth of a second if a tree branch or other object strikes the line.

## Why We Do It

Stopping wildfires before they have a chance to start.



Data is approximate; \*Based on 2022 performance for CPUC-reportable ignitions in HFTD compared to 2018-2020 weather-normalized performance; \*\*Relative to the 2018-2020 average



SAFETY SETTINGS IN ACTION IN NAPA COUNTY

## Safety Settings, Step-By-Step

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Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.



#### Improving reliability and minimizing customer impacts



100%

of powerlines in high fire-

risk areas are protected by EPSS



Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.

### We have taken steps to improve reliability on circuits protected by EPSS in Nevada County.

This work is ongoing and includes:

- Trimming trees to reduce future vegetation-caused outages
- Installing fault indicators to precisely
  identify outage locations and speed up restoration
- Installing animal guards to prevent future animal-caused outages

#### i Customers can learn more at pge.com/epss



Data as of 067/24/2023. Locations are approximate and may overlap. Work plans are subject to change.

# **Public Safety Power Shutoffs**



High winds can cause tree branches and debris to contact energized electric lines, damage our equipment and cause a wildfire.

To prevent wildfires, we may need to turn off power as a last resort.



## What Conditions Could Lead to a PSPS?



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Low humidity levels of 30% and below Forecasted high winds above 19 mph and gusts above 30-40 mph A Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service **Condition of dry material** on the ground and low moisture content of vegetation On-the-ground, real-time observations

### **Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings**

Turning off power automatically within one-tenth of a second if a problem is detected on the line

### WHEN

Elevated wildfire risk is present, most likely from May to November, but can occur year-round

#### NOTIFICATIONS

Regular updates after the outage occurs; advance notice cannot be provided due to the adjusted settings that allow power to automatically shut off

### Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

Turning off power to prevent tree branches and debris from contacting energized lines

## Hen WHEN

During times of high winds, low humidity and dry vegetation

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#### NOTIFICATIONS

In advance through automated calls, texts, and emails with updates provided daily until power is restored

#### Find updates and information for both planned and unplanned outages at **pge.com/outages**

## **Customer Resources**



### **Customer Resources**



### Wildfire Safety

Information on wildfire prevention efforts

i pge.com/wildfiresafety



### 211

24-7 free and confidential support and resources via calls or texts to 211





### **Report It App**

Submit photos of non-emergency potential safety concerns

i) pge.com/reportit



#### **Safety Action Center**

Create an emergency safety plan to keep you and your family safe

#### safetyactioncenter.pge.com

Dedicated wildfire safety contacts: Hotline: 1-866-743-6589 | Email: wildfiresafety@pge.com

# **Open Discussion**



# Thank You

