# 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Overview

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Community Wildfire Safety Program

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## 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Overview

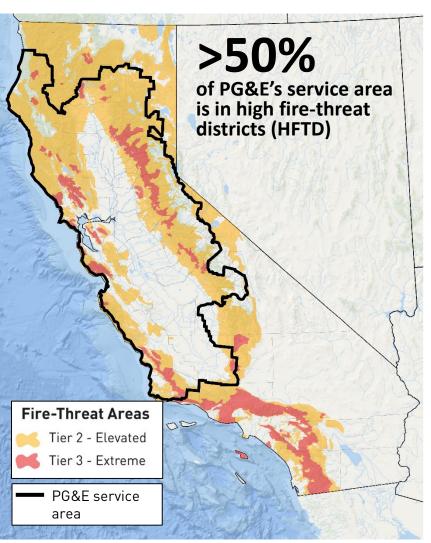
## **2020 WMP Objectives**

- Reduce Wildfire Ignition Potential
- Improve Situational Awareness
- Reduce Impact of PSPS Events

### **Year-to-Date Progress**

- WMP Programs
- Customer & Community Outreach

## **PG&E's COVID Response**



Source: California Public Utilities Commission



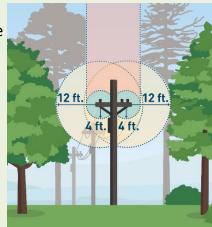
## **Objective #1: Reduce Wildfire Ignition Potential**



Reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires from electrical equipment by mitigating the known causes of ignitions.

#### **Enhanced Vegetation Management**

- Conduct 1,800 line-miles of 12 foot radial clearance and remove high-risk trees and overhangs
- Focus on expanding Rights-of-Way on lower voltage transmission to reduce wildfire risk and footprint of future PSPS events
- Clearance goes above and beyond State requirements



#### **System Automation**

- Continue to enable Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) devices and reclosers to allow operators to remotely prevent a line from automatically reenergizing after a fault
- Testing Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) technology that can automatically reduce the electrical current in a downed wire.

#### **Asset Repair and Inspection**

 Incorporating enhanced inspection process and tools from 2019 Wildfire Safety Inspection Program into routine inspection program: annual inspection of Tier-3 areas and 3-year cycles for Tier-2

#### **System Hardening**

 Replacing 241 line-miles of existing overhead conductor through asset elimination, installing covered conductors with stronger and more resilient poles, or targeted undergrounding

#### **Public Safety Power Shutoffs**

 Utilizing PSPS during extremely high-risk conditions to eliminate ignition risks; 2020 PSPS events will be smaller in scope, shorter in duration, and smarter in performance



## **Objective #2: Improve Situational Awareness**



Improving understanding of upcoming and real-time weather and fire conditions, to reduce fire ignitions, respond faster, and minimize PSPS event scope

#### **Situational Awareness**

- Create highly localized weather and fire risk forecasts (2x better granularity than 2019) and real-time conditions to identify high-risk locations, share with first responders and activate field response
- 400 weather stations this year, for a total of 1,000 by end of year
- 200 HD cameras this year, for a total of 335 by end of year



#### **Wildfire Safety Operations Center and Meteorology**



- Operate 24/7 Wildfire Safety Operations Center to monitor fire threats
- Coordinate and mobilize response efforts with first responders, government, media and others during potential or active wildfires
- Using satellite fire detection system that compiles data from 5 satellites and one of the largest, high-resolution climatological datasets in the utility industry
- Direct operational modifications and fire safety resources



## **Objective #3: Reduce Impact of PSPS**



Make any future PSPS events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for our customers.



**SMALLER IN SIZE** 

**GOAL** 

Reduce the number of customers impacted by PSPS events by one-third compared to 2019

#### **INITIATIVES**

- Installing **sectionalizing devices** on the transmission and distribution systems capable of re-directing power and limiting the size of outages
- Developing microgrids that use generators to keep the lights on
- Conducting targeted undergrounding as part of system hardening
- "Islanding" Humboldt Bay Generating Station to provide power to the local community during nearby PSPS events



**SHORTER** IN LENGTH **Restore customers** twice as fast after severe weather has passed

- Adding more field crews to speed inspection of lines for restoration
- Expanding helicopter fleet from 35 to 65 for aerial line inspections

Enhancing meteorology technology to pinpoint location and timing

- Commissioning two new airplanes for aerial line inspections
- Utilizing infrared equipment to inspect at night



**SMARTER** FOR CUSTOMERS

**Provide more** accurate/timely communications and additional resources

· Bolstering website capacity

of severe weather

- Improving customer alerts and notifications
- **Upgrading Community Resource Centers**
- Improving coordination with local agencies and critical service providers
- **Deliver more** assistance before. during and after a PSPS event
- Working with the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and other Community Based Organizations to support vulnerable customers
- Making it easier for eligible customers to join and stay in the Medical **Baseline** program
- Expanding in-language communications

Some of the med



## **Wildfire Mitigation Plan Progress**

#### **PROGRAM**



2019 COMPLETE



2020 TARGET



2020 PROGRESS

#### SYSTEM HARDENING

Stronger poles, covered lines and/or targeted undergrounding

#### **ENHANCED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Inspecting, pruning and removing vegetation

#### HIGH-DEFINITION CAMERAS

Improving real-time monitoring of high-risk areas and conditions

#### **WEATHER STATIONS**

Enhancing weather forecasting and modeling

#### **SECTIONALIZING DEVICES**

Separating the grid into smaller sections to increase flexibility and reduce customer impact of PSPS events

#### TRANSMISSION LINE SWITCHES

Enabling targeted transmission outages to lessen downstream customer impacts

#### **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS (CRCs)**

Safe, energized locations for customers to receive basic resources and information

<b>241</b> LINE MILES	105 LINE MILES
<b>1,800</b> LINE MILES	939 LINE MILES
<b>200</b> CAMERAS	<b>50</b> CAMERAS
<b>400</b> STATIONS	<b>116</b> stations
<b>592</b> DEVICES	<b>216</b> DEVICES
23 DEVICES	<b>29</b> DEVICES
<b>80*</b> SITES TARGETED	5* SITE READY
	1,800 LINE MILES  200 CAMERAS  400 STATIONS  592 DEVICES  23 DEVICES

**DATA AS OF 5/23** 

<sup>\*</sup> PG&E originally targeted 201 CRC sites for the 2020 PSPS season, due to COVID we have adjusted PSPS customer support programs during this time including creating multiple deployment strategies for CRCs (hardened sites, temporary sites, open-air tents and mobile, vehicle-based CRCs).



## **Coordination with Cities/Counties/Tribes**

2020 City/County/Tribal Engagement (Modified plan incorporating COVID-19 limitations)		
Outreach Type	Description	YTD Status
PSPS Listening Sessions	Met with cities, counties, tribes and critical service agencies to gather feedback and identify coordination opportunities.	<ul><li>36+ sessions completed</li><li>11 counties declined</li><li>6 not in scope (no 2019 PSPS impacts)</li></ul>
PSPS Advisory Committee	Established an advisory committee comprised of six rural/urban counties, two tribal agencies and representatives from League of Cities and CSAC	4 meetings completed
Wildfire Safety Working Sessions	Scheduling web-based working sessions (originally planned to be in-person) with tribes and all 47 counties across the service territory to share county-level information.	<ul> <li>26 sessions completed</li> <li>3 scheduled</li> <li>3 on hold due to Covid-19</li> <li>4 pending</li> <li>2 declined</li> <li>11 counties with minimal or no PSPS impacts in 2019; outreach began 5/22</li> </ul>
Regional Working Groups	Establishing regularly scheduled regional working groups across PG&E's service territory for PSPS readiness.	Targeting to begin in <b>June</b>
PSPS Planning Exercises	Conducting regionally-based PSPS exercises with agencies to enhance readiness, training and coordination.	3 scheduled (starting in June)



## **Customer Outreach: Local Webinars and People With Disabilities and Aging Advisory Council**

#### **CWSP Local Customer Webinars** PG&E is hosting local webinars Glenn, Shasta, Humboldt, Siskiyou, 7/8: with customers 7/1: Tehama counties Trinity counties and communities to discuss wildfire safety initiatives, Butte, Lassen, ask questions and Plumas counties gather feedback. Lake, 6/17: Mendocino Nevada, Placer, Sierra, 5/13: Yuba counties counties Amador, Calaveras, 5/27: COMPLETED Colusa, Solam, El Dorado counties 5/20: Yolo counties Napa, Sonoma Alpine, Mariposa, 5/6: 7/15: counties **Tuolumne** counties Alameda, Contra Merced, San Joaquin, 6/10: Costa, Marin 7/22: Stanislaus counties counties San Mateo, 6/3: Santa Clara counties Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Benito, Madera, Tulare Santa Cruz counties counties Scheduled San Luis Obispo. Santa Barbara counties Complete

## People With Disabilities and Aging Advisory Council (PWDAAC)

PG&E established the People With Disabilities and Aging Advisory Council (PWDAAC) to help improve support and allow for feedback from vulnerable and Access and Functional Needs (AFN) customers.

#### Status

Meetings hosted on 4/30 and 5/29 (plan to host at least quarterly)



### **PG&E's COVID Response**

- 1. PG&E's EOC has been activated continuously since late February to direct company activities and response; we moved quickly to protect our customers and workers with appropriate safety protocols
- 2. Wildfire work has remained prioritized as essential and critical throughout our pandemic response
- PG&E has modified our work plans and scheduling to minimize customer outages in recognition of customers sheltering at home
- 4. Wildfire & PSPS-related work remain on track despite logistical challenges and some disruptions with contractors and suppliers availability and capabilities
- PG&E has pivoted customer and agency engagement strategies to virtual / webinar (from in-person)
- PG&E has adjusted PSPS customer support programs during this time including:
  - Creating multiple deployment strategies for CRCs (hardened sites, temporary sites, open-air tents and mobile, vehicle-based CRCs)
  - Suspending requirement for physician signature to join or stay on the Medical Baseline program

**What has not changed:** Our efforts and focus on operating our system safely to reduce wildfire risk while minimizing the impacts of PSPS on our customers.

PG&E is ready for wildfire season and ready to execute a PSPS event, if needed, at any time.

## **Thank You**

For questions regarding PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program, please:



Call us at **1-866-743-6589** 



Email us at wildfiresafety@pge.com



Visit pge.com/wildfiresafety



Visit <a href="www.pge.com/wildfiremitigationplan">www.pge.com/wildfiremitigationplan</a> for a copy of the 2020 WMP and related details



## **Appendix**





## Reducing PSPS Footprint: Sonoma County Example

### **LEGEND:**

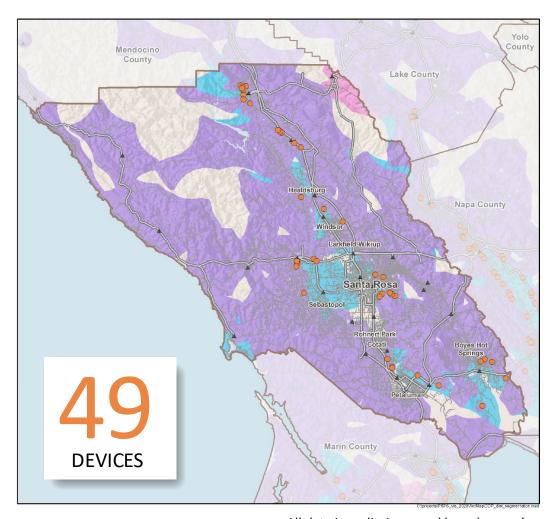
- Distribution sectionalizing devices installed in late 2019 or planned in 2020
- Area potentially removed from PSPS scope due to planned sectionalizing (distribution level event only)
- New area now in PSPS scope
- No change from 2019
- ▲ PG&E Substation

#### **Electric Transmission Line**

60 kV; 70 kV; 115 kV only

Electric Distribution Line

**Note:** Map reflects projects in planning and/or underway and is subject to change. Some data points may overlap.



All data is preliminary and based on early 2020 work planning. Data as of April 2020.



## **Community Support**



#### **Community Resource Centers (CRCs)**

- Working with counties and tribes to streamline and enhance the overall CRC process
- Determining resources and amenities
- Creating multiple deployment strategies (hardened sites, temporary sites, open-air tents and mobile, vehicle-based)



#### **Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Advisory Council**

- Established an AFN Advisory Council to inform outreach, programs, and resources for the AFN community and medically-sensitive populations; meetings hosted on 4/30 and 5/29
- Council consists of members that can speak and act on behalf of the represented organization
- Additional consultation will continue through pre-existing channels for engagement with low income, limited
   English communities, tribes, etc.



#### California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)

- Funding the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, or CFILC, to assist the Access and Functional Needs, or AFN, population, who are most vulnerable when the power goes out.
- The pilot program, Disaster Access and Resources Program, provides qualifying customers who use electrical medical devices access to backup portable batteries.
- The program will also provide transportation resources, assistive communication equipment, hotel and food vouchers, emergency planning and education and Medical Baseline program enrollment assistance.
- Customers interested in the pilot program can visit their local independent living center or disabilitydisasteraccess.org for more information.



#### **Medical Baseline**

- Partnering with cities, counties, tribes and agencies to share medical baseline customer information for emergency preparedness planning
- Making it easier for eligible customers to join and stay in the Medical Baseline program