

Community Wildfire Safety Program

EL DORADO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 16, 2018



Together, Building
a Better California



Community Wildfire Safety Program

Nothing is more important to us than keeping our customers and communities safe. Extreme weather events driven by climate change are causing unprecedented and unanticipated wildfires. Our Community Wildfire Safety Program will help reduce wildfire threats and strengthen our communities for the future.



WHAT'S HAPPENING. We are bolstering wildfire prevention and emergency response efforts, putting in place new and enhanced safety measures, and doing more over the long term to harden our electric system to help reduce wildfire risks and keep our customers safe.



WHY IT'S HAPPENING. Years of drought, extreme heat and 129 million dead trees have created a “new normal” for our state, and we must continue to adapt to meet these challenges.



WHAT IT MEANS FOR CUSTOMERS. We want to work together to share information, provide resources and help our customers and communities prepare for and stay safe during extreme weather events.



We Are Taking Action

Bolstering wildfire prevention and emergency response efforts

- Monitoring wildfire risks in real time from our new **Wildfire Safety Operations Center**
- **Expanding our network of PG&E weather stations** to enhance weather forecasting and modeling

Working with our communities on new and enhanced safety measures

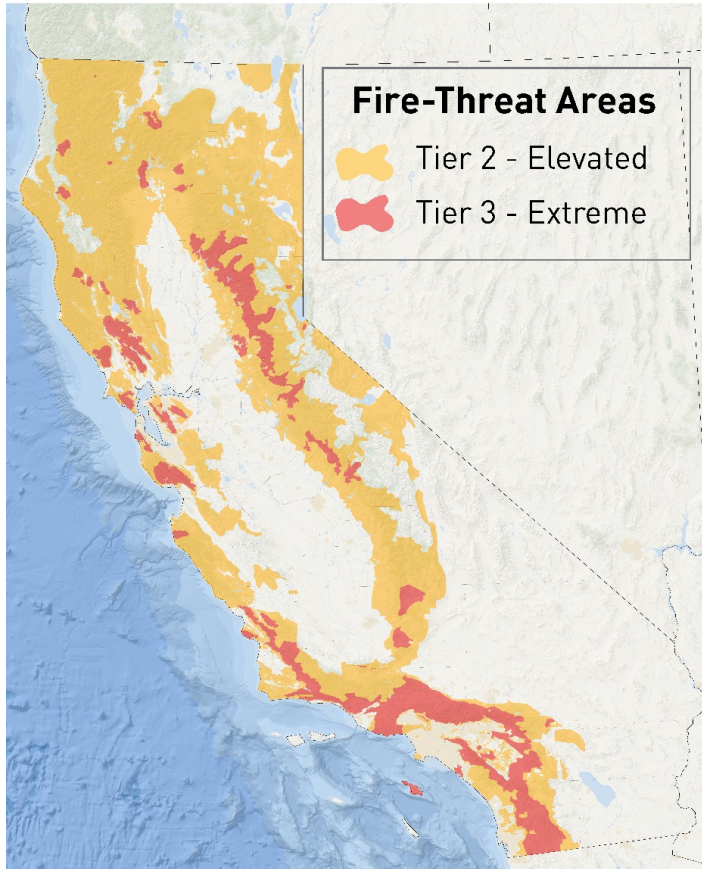
- **Executing enhanced vegetation management** in high fire-threat areas
- **Disabling automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers**
- **Refining and executing protocols to proactively turn off electric power** for safety when extreme fire danger conditions are occurring

Longer term, hardening our electric system and integrating new technologies

- Investing in **stronger, coated power lines**
- **Replacing some wood poles** with non-wood poles in the coming years
- Working with communities to **develop resilience zones**



CPUC High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) Map



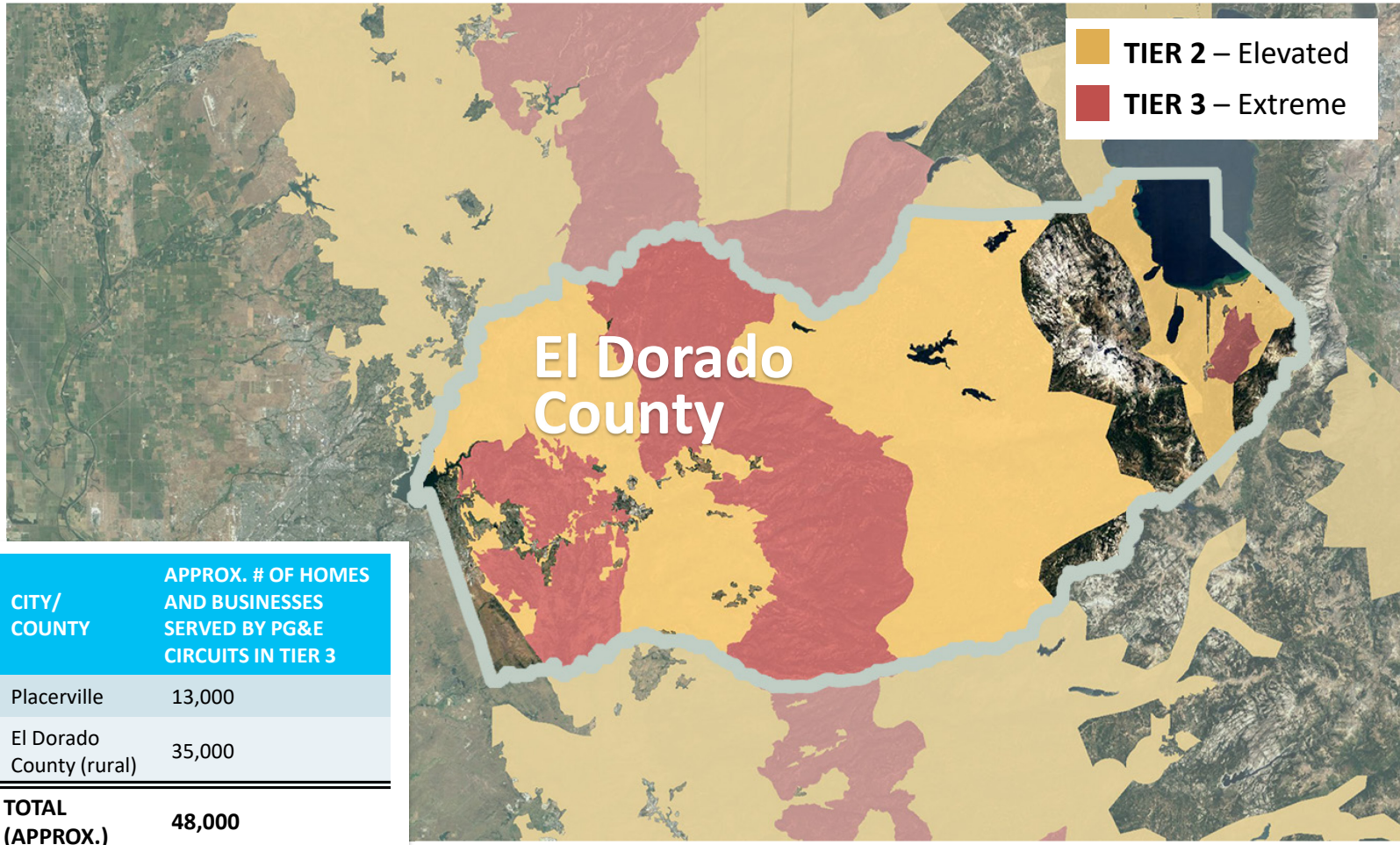
Source: California Public Utilities Commission

- In January 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted a map designating the areas that are most at risk for wildfire.
 - Tier 3 areas are at extreme risk
 - Tier 2 areas are at elevated risk
- This map was developed in coordination with CAL FIRE and based on input from electric utilities, communications infrastructure providers, and local public safety agencies.
- The map can be accessed at cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps

After the 2017 wildfires, some changes are additional precautionary measures to further address wildfire risk.



CPUC High Fire-Threat District Map El Dorado County

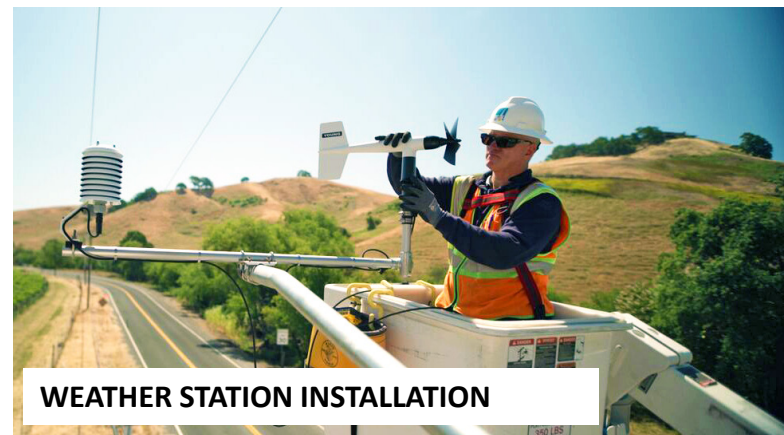


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Real-Time Monitoring of Wildfire Risks

- **Established a dedicated Wildfire Safety Operations Center** to monitor wildfire risks in real time and coordinate prevention and response efforts
- **Installing additional weather stations** to improve weather forecasting abilities; approximately **200 new weather stations** planned for 2018
- **Capturing additional temperature, wind speeds and humidity data** to help us better predict when and where extreme wildfire danger could occur
- **Data streamed in real time and publicly available** online at the National Weather Service and MesoWest



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Public Safety Power Shutoff

1 MONITOR

PG&E continually monitors for extreme weather threats and high fire danger.

We will consider several factors before shutting off power.



WEATHER FORECAST

Periods of increased risk are identified by wind speed, humidity and temperature.



FUEL CONDITIONS

Conditions such as dry vegetation are factored in.



OBSERVATIONS

On-the-ground, real-time observations are made.



NOTICE

Inform CAL FIRE, Cal OES* and local agencies of conditions and potential Public Safety Power Shutoff.

2 INFORM

If we need to turn off power, we will attempt to contact customers in advance to give time to prepare.

We will use a multi-faceted effort to inform communities.



AUTOMATED OUTREACH

PG&E will provide automated outreach through calls, texts and emails.



DIRECT OUTREACH

We will take additional steps to reach customers who are enrolled in our Medical Baseline program, as needed.



COORDINATION

Coordination will take place with first responders and local officials.

3 SHUT OFF / RESTORE

We know how much people rely on electric service and would only temporarily turn off power for safety as a last resort.

We will take steps to keep you informed and get power restored as quickly as possible.



INSPECTIONS

PG&E crews will be in the field conducting safety inspections and determining when power can be safely restored.



UPDATES

Customers will receive updates until power is restored.



SAFELY RESTORE POWER

Power will be restored as soon as extreme weather conditions have passed and safety inspections are complete.

*California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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Public Safety Power Shutoff



FREQUENCY

We anticipate that a Public Safety Power Shutoff could occur **1 to 2 times a year in our service area**, although it is impossible to predict future weather conditions in this “new normal.”



DURATION

After the extreme weather has passed, in most cases, we would expect to be able to restore power within **24 hours**.

However, depending on conditions or if any repairs are needed, outages (weather event + restoration time) could last between **2 to 5 days**.



NOTIFICATIONS

Extreme weather threats can change quickly. When and where possible, we would provide notice between **1 hour to 48 hours** in advance through automated phone calls, texts and emails.

We are also conducting **direct outreach** to medical baseline/life support customers.



Helping Our Customers Prepare

- **PG&E has a plan to deal with the growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires. We want our customers to have plans, too.**
- We are asking our customers to:



Update their contact info

By visiting pge.com/mywildfirealerts so we can keep them informed.



Prepare and practice a plan

Make sure everyone in their home knows what to do by practicing an emergency plan.



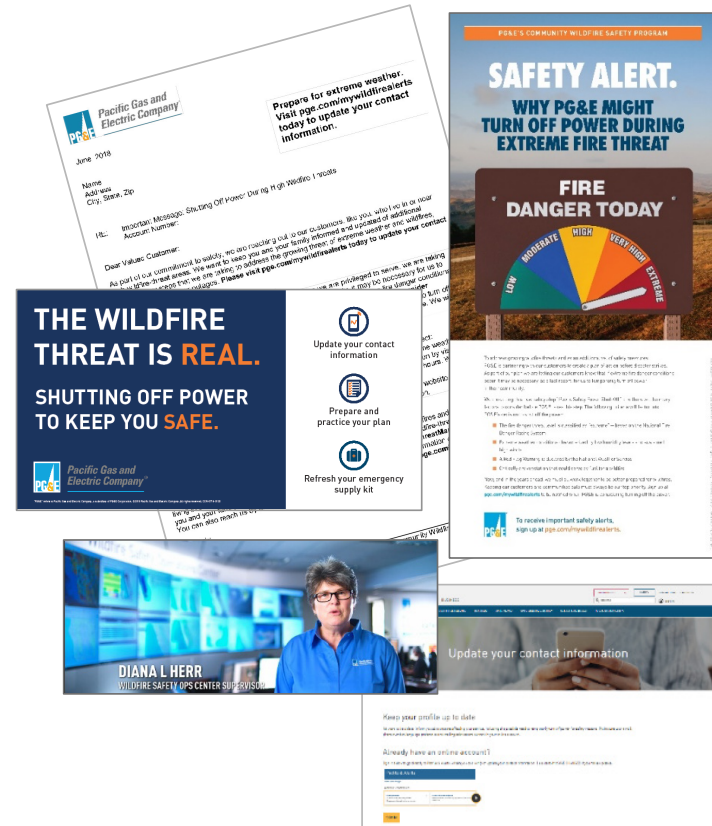
Evaluate their home

Know how to manually open garage doors, install and replace batteries in smoke alarms, and locate and operate fire extinguishers.



Create an emergency supply kit

Stock supplies to last a week in waterproof containers that are easy to reach. Refresh emergency kits yearly.

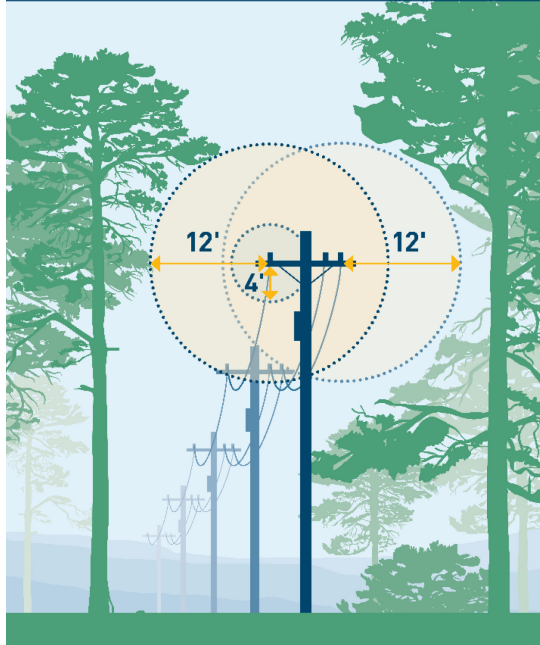


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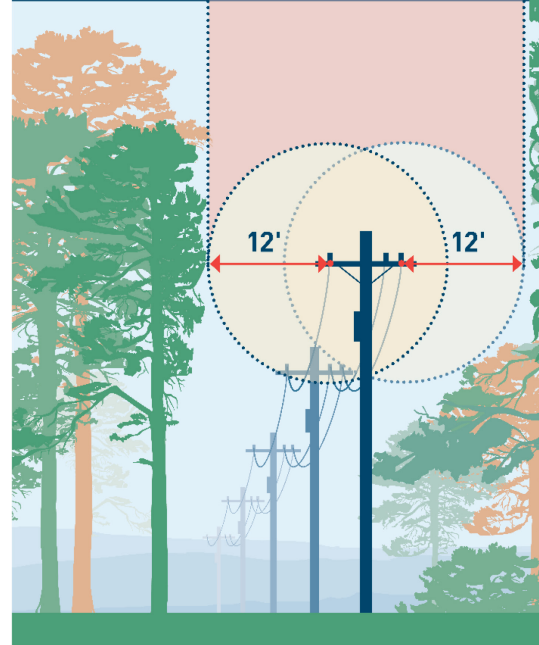
Enhanced Vegetation Management

Routine Vegetation Work



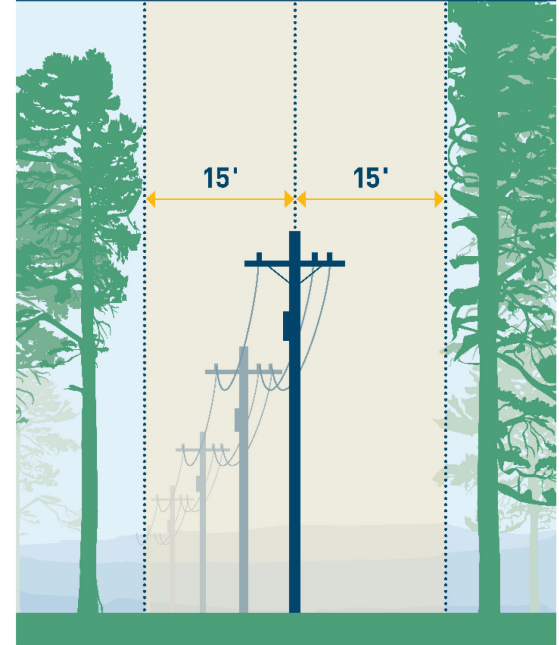
Meeting new state vegetation and fire safety standards that require minimum clearances between trees and power lines

Wildfire Safety Work



Taking immediate action to address overhanging branches and hazardous trees that have the potential to come into contact with power lines

Fire Defense Zone



Partnering with customers to create fire defense zones around power lines in the highest fire-threat areas

After the 2017 wildfires, some changes are additional precautionary measures to further address wildfire risk.



Wildfire Safety Vegetation Work

- In response to last year's wildfires and this year's wildfire threat, we are **expanding and accelerating** our vegetation and safety work in extreme fire-threat areas.
- To **maximize the safety of our customers**, their neighborhoods and the surrounding community, we will:
 - ✔ **Establish safety clearances** of 12 feet or more between trees, limbs and power lines
 - ✔ **Address overhanging branches or limbs**, which have the potential to come into contact with power lines
 - ✔ **Trim or remove hazardous, dead or dying trees** to better protect our customers and reduce the threat of wildfire
 - ✔ **Remove wood debris** and conduct work at no direct cost to the customer



After the 2017 wildfires, some changes are additional precautionary measures to further address wildfire risk.



Working With Our Customers

- We want our customers to be **completely informed** about our wildfire vegetation safety work
- We will **work together** to review any necessary safety work and answer questions
- Our outreach includes:
 - Automated phone calls, letters, and emails
 - Personal visits and doorhangers
 - Dedicated phone number (**1-877-295-4949**) and email address (**wildfiresafety@pge.com**)
 - Website (**pge.com/enhancedveg**)

WILDFIRE SAFETY WORK: Tree Inspection on Your Property

Dear Valued Customer:

Given the devastating and deadly wildfires we have seen in recent months, PG&E is working immediately to further reduce the risk of trees coming into contact with power lines in extreme fire-threat areas, like your community.

This wildfire safety work involves creating clearances of 12-feet between power lines and trees, including any overhanging branches and limbs.

Today, PG&E contractor crews conducted an inspection on your property and identified vegetation that will need to be addressed in the interest of public safety. All trees that require work have been clearly marked with paint or tape.

We plan to conduct this wildfire safety work soon.

Please call us at 1-877-295-4949 or email us at wildfiresafety@pge.com with any questions or to coordinate access issues.

We plan to begin wood debris removal within the next few weeks. If you would like to keep the wood, or if there is additional vegetation you would like removed below the power lines, please contact us today.

Notes: _____

Thank you for your cooperation.

• Para evitar un espaldón por tener líneas de: 1-844-743-4899
 • 避免有電線/線路造成危險，請電：1-800-493-9555
 • Để được giúp đỡ bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi: 1-800-295-8438

Community Wildfire Safety Program
pge.com/wildfiresafety

WILDFIRE SAFETY WORK

Further reducing the risk of wildfires and keeping our communities safe

- Meeting new state vegetation and fire safety standards
- Addressing overhanging branches or limbs
- Removing all wood debris, unless notified that the property owner would like to keep it.

For illustrative purposes only

PG&E For more information about this wildfire vegetation management work, please call us at 1-877-295-4949 or email us at wildfiresafety@pge.com.

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Recloser Procedures

- We are **disabling automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers on lines in high fire-threat areas** during fire season and during periods of high fire-risk.
- Reclosers help maintain the safety of our system by **avoiding sustained power outages**.
- Disabling of reclosing technology **may reduce the probability of fire ignition** associated with a power line.
 - Where reclosers and circuit breakers **do not have remote control capability (SCADA)**, we have **disabled reclosing for the 2018 fire season**.
 - Where we **have remote control capability**, we will **disable reclosing based on a daily decision-making process** during times of elevated risk as determined by our Wildfire Safety Operations Center.





Electric System Hardening

- PG&E has made capital investments for its **electric transmission and distribution system of about \$15 billion** over the last five years.
- Over the longer term, PG&E is working to **strengthen the overall construction of our electric system to reflect the changing environmental conditions** of our service area and improve system resiliency. We are:
 - **Installing stronger, coated power lines**
 - **Replacing wood poles with non-wood material in some areas in the coming years**



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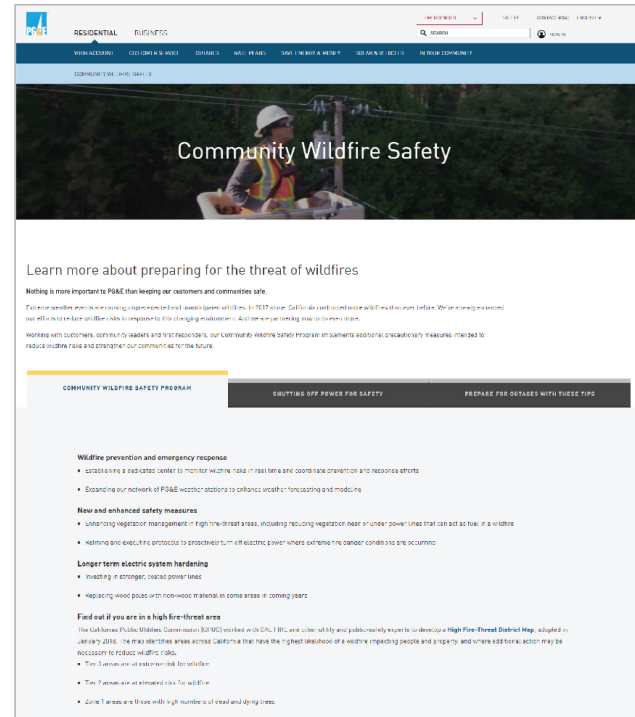
Learn More

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

- **Brandon Sanders**
 - 916-472-2241
 - Brandon.Sanders@pge.com

Customers with questions can:

- Call us at **1-866-743-6589**
- Email us at **wildfiresafety@pge.com**
- Visit **pge.com/wildfiresafety**



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Thank you



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