# 2023 PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program: Information for Hospitals

August 7, 2023



# Welcome

Angela Nielsen Administrative Director Hospital Council



# Questions



**Online Questions:** At any time, submit your questions in the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen and press enter. We will take questions at the end of the presentation.





Kristen Burke
Healthcare Strategic Account Manager, Principal
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Ms. Burke serves as the Strategic Account Manager for the Healthcare Team at Pacific Gas & Electric Company. She has been with PG&E for 16 years, and since 2017, has served as an assigned account manager for several large health care systems and independent health care customers within the PG&E service territory. She is highly experienced in Public Safety Power Shutoffs and Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings as well as many other PG&E programs. Prior to working at PG&E, Ms. Burke spent 8 years working in customer service and training roles in the Healthcare Insurance industry.





Andrea Menniti
Principal Program Manager
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Ms. Menniti is principal program manager on PG&E's 10K Undergrounding Program Customer Experience team. She helps lead the strategic development and implementation of PG&E's external engagement plan to enhance the overall customer journey and increase customer satisfaction of the program.





Ricardo Navarro
Principal Critical Facilities Program Manager
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Mr. Navarro joined PG&E 14 years ago. He is currently on the Customer Emergency Planning & Operations team supporting Critical Facilities. Previously, Mr. Navarro held positions in Customer Relations, Customer Outreach, and Energy Efficiency.





Joe Segura
Principal Program Manager, Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Mr. Segura currently serves in our Customer Emergency Planning Operations team as the Principal Program Manager for Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings. Mr. Segura has held a variety of positions throughout his tenure with PG&E including Business Energy Solutions, Local Customer Experience-Division Leadership Team, Service Planning, and Supervisor for Centralized Outreach Teams.

# Safety

#### **Preparedness Tips**

Always be prepared in case of a natural disaster or an emergency

Build a disaster supply kit for you and your family

Be sure to include food, water, medication, flashlights, first aid kits, a list of emergency contacts and more

Visit <u>safetyactioncenter.pge.com</u> to help prepare for an emergency





### Agenda

- 1 Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk
- 2 10,000 Mile Undergrounding Program
- **3** Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings
- 4 Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- 5 Resources and Support
- 6 Q&A

# **Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk**





#### Who We Serve

# **By The Numbers**

**16M** PEOPLE SERVED

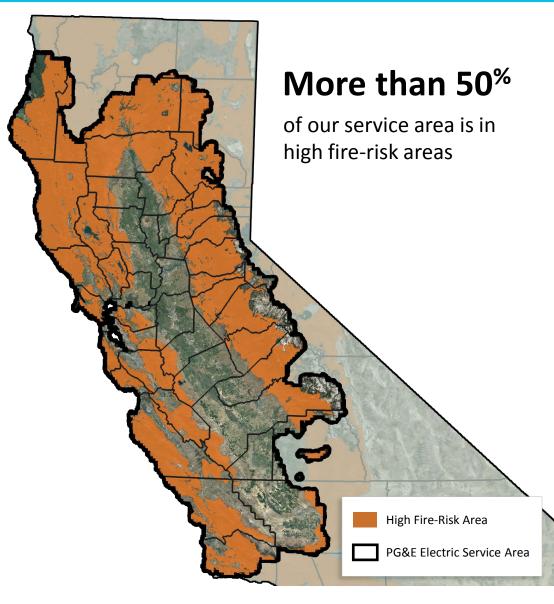
**5.5M** electric accounts

**4.5M** gas accounts

70,000 SQUARE MILE SERVICE AREA

**106,700** circuit miles of electric distribution lines

**42,100** miles of natural gas distribution pipeline





### **Layers of Safety Protect Customers From Wildfires**

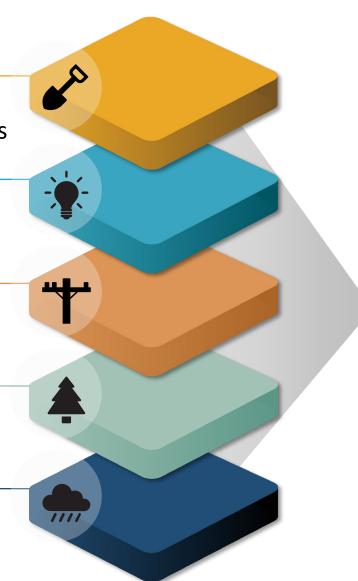
Undergrounding 10,000 miles of powerlines in highest fire-risk areas

**Ensuring safety** with enhanced protection and temporary outages

**Installing stronger powerlines** and poles

**Keeping trees and branches away** from powerlines

Using the latest technologies and equipment



90%
reduction in
wildfire risk from
PG&E equipment
since 2017

\*This number was calculated using the potential safety, reliability, and financial impacts of wildfires and their expected frequency, as established by the California Public Utilities Commission.

# 10,000-Mile Undergrounding Program





# **Undergrounding 10,000 Miles**

- We are committed to undergrounding 10,000 miles of powerlines in the highest fire-risk areas.
- 10,000 miles represents nearly one-third of the overhead lines currently in high fire-risk areas.
- This year, we are on track to underground a total of 350 additional miles.

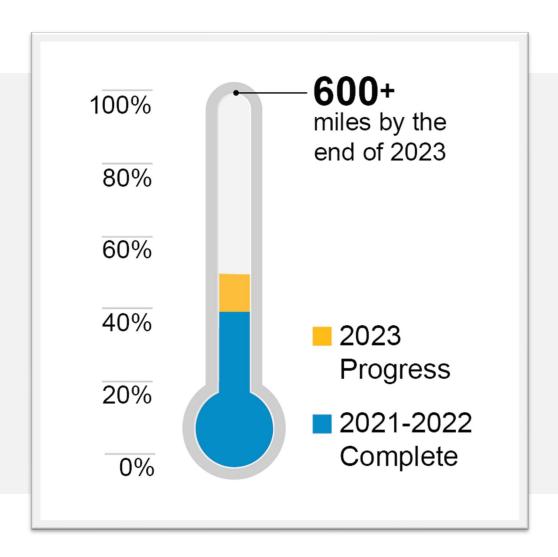




# **Undergrounding Progress**

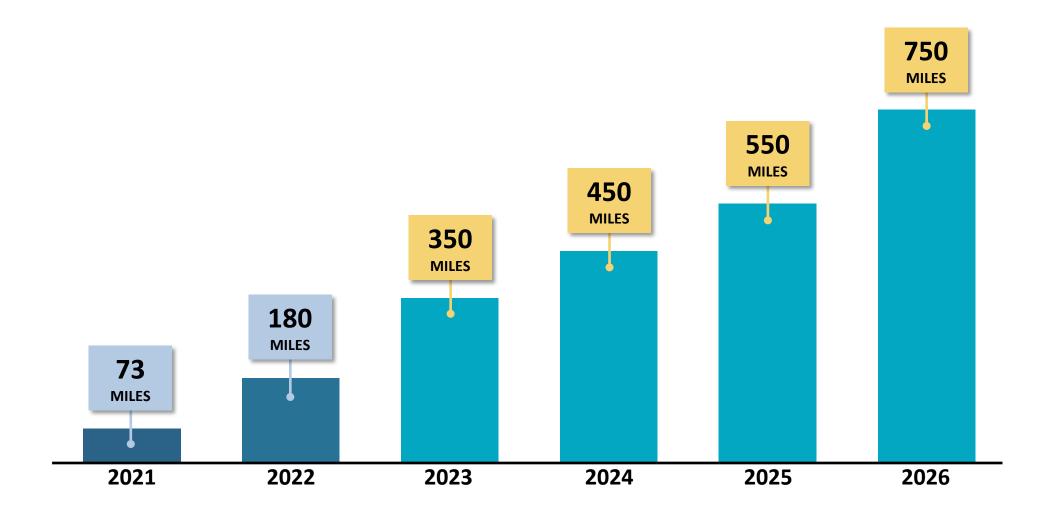
Since the program's announcement in 2021, we have undergrounded 295 miles, with 180 of those completed in 2022.

This year, we plan to underground an additional 350 miles.





## Ramping Up Our Undergrounding Efforts to Meet Our Targets





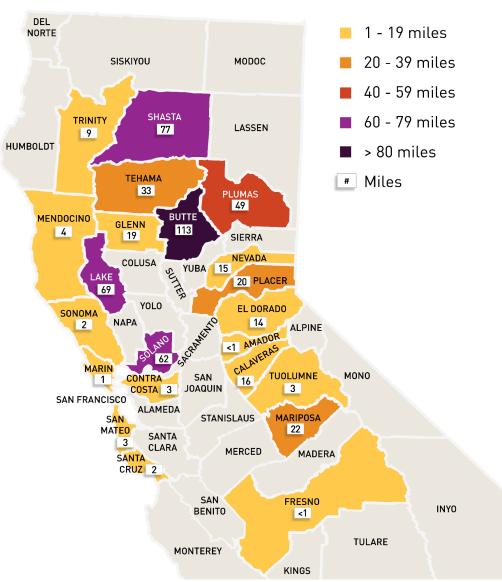
# **2023 Undergrounding Forecast**

Maps of 2023 completed and forecasted work and potential 2024 projects per county can be found at:



#### pge.com/undergrounding

We anticipate sharing updated maps in the coming weeks.



# **Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings**





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

#### **How It Works**

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.

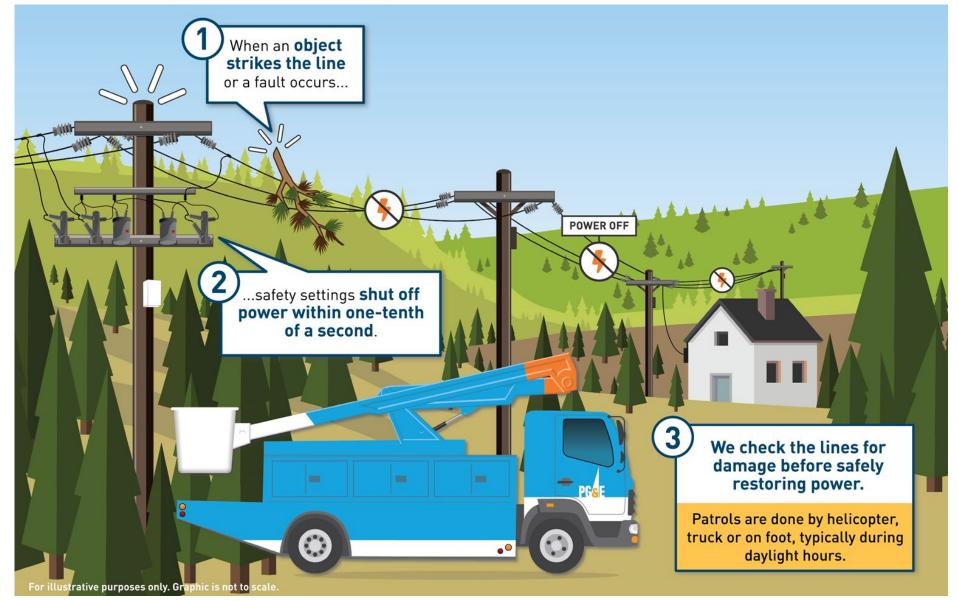
68% reduction in ignitions\*

99% reduction in fire size\*\*





# **Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings**





### **EPSS Improvements: Turning Learnings into Action**

By turning 2021 learnings into action, we simultaneously expanded and improved the EPSS Program last year.

# Key 2022 improvements based on 2021 learnings:

- Engineered and installed coordinated settings
- Developed and executed circuit-level enablement to maximize risk reduction and reliability
- Refined circuit patrols and better identified fault locations
- Leveraged the Regional Service Model to institute daily outage reviews locally where trends and actions to reduce outages are identified

	2021	2022	Improvements	
Average outage length	~7 hrs	<3 hrs	56% decrease	
Average customers impacted per outage	~1,100	877	20% decrease	
Customers protected	~380,000	~1.82M	374% expansion	
Miles protected	45% of HFRA	100% of HFRA	122% increase	



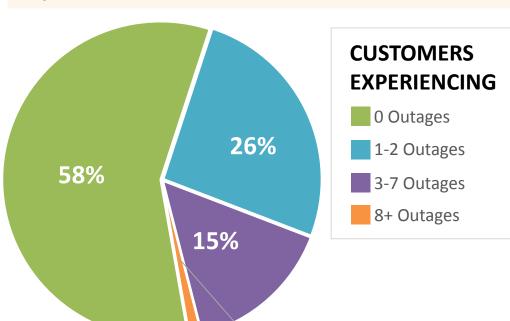
# **Minimizing Customer Impacts**

#### **2022 EPSS Performance**

Through real-time and continuous improvements, we mitigated customer impacts without compromising the wildfire prevention benefits of EPSS.



1.82M Customers Protected



#### **2023 EPSS Improvements**

Continuing to improve reliability for all customers protected by EPSS and taking additional actions for the most impacted customers.

We are targeting mitigation efforts on the most impacted devices, these include:

- Proactive animal mitigation consisting of bird retrofitting and critter abatement
- Proactive expanded vegetation management work
- Additional training and data driven support to target patrols
- Expanded access to customer resiliency programs



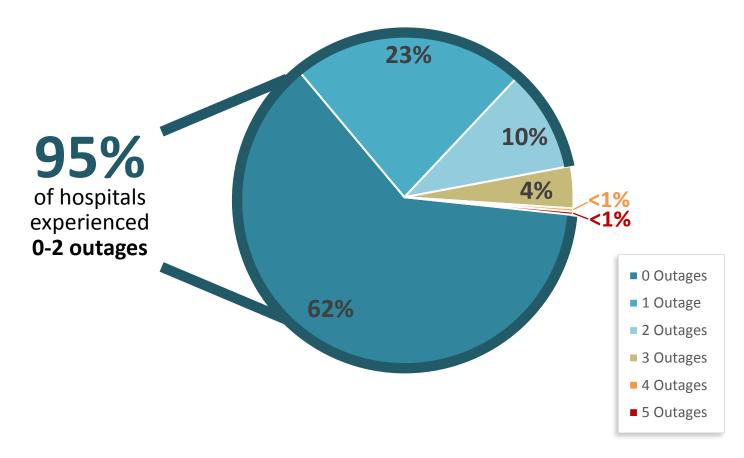
#### **EPSS Performance**



100%

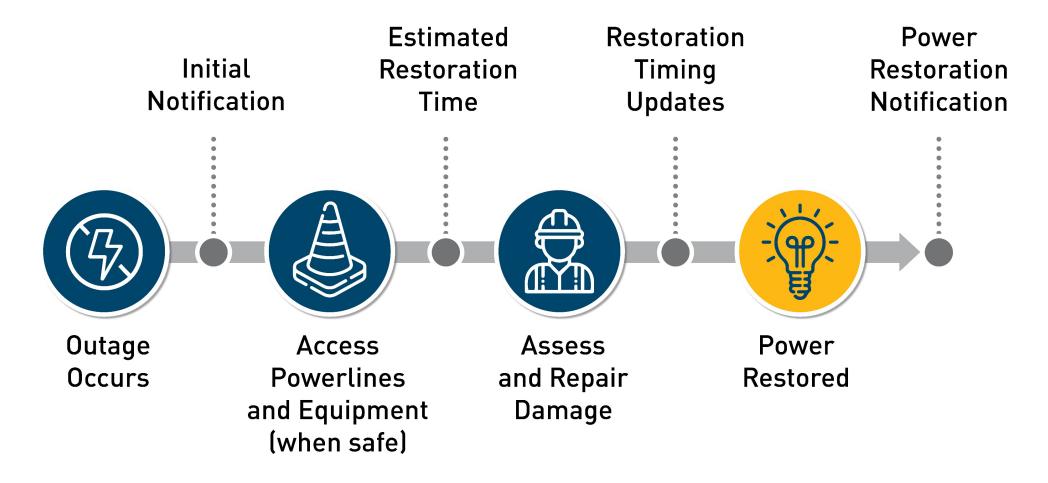
of powerlines in high fire-risk areas are protected by EPSS

# 2022 EPSS Performance for all hospitals in PG&E's service area





### **What Customers Can Expect**



i Customers can find information on the status of an outage and the restoration process at pge.com/outages

# **Public Safety Power Shutoffs**





# What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

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?











**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



# **Notifying Customers, Public Safety Partners and Agencies**

Severe weather forecasted				PSPS Outage				
Torcoastea	72 hours PRIORITY/ ADVANCED	48-24 hours WATCH	<b>4-1 hours</b> WARNING	<b>De- Energization</b> POWER IS OFF	Severe Weather Passed	If ETOR Changes	Power Restored	
Hospitals and Other Critical Customers, Agencies, CBOs								
Customer Notifications Includes Address Alerts								

**ETOR:** Estimated Time of Restoration

<sup>\*</sup>Community-Based Organization



### **Differences Between Safety Settings and PSPS**

#### **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



#### **WHEN**

During times of high winds, low humidity and dry vegetation



#### **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 <a href="mailto:pge.com/outages">pge.com/outages</a>

# **Resources and Support**





## **Providing More Information and Tools for Customers to Prepare**

#### Portable Battery Program **EXPANDED ACCESS**

No-cost portable backup battery solutions, mini-fridges, and insulin cooler wallets

i pge.com/backuppower

#### Generator and Battery Rebate Program EXPANDED ACCESS

Rebates with purchase of a portable generator or battery

i pge.com/backuppower

#### **Self-Generation Incentive Program**

Rebates to help customers purchase permanent battery storage

i pge.com/sgip

#### **Disability Disaster Access and Resources**

Emergency preparedness planning, portable batteries, and support for Access and Functional Needs customers i pge.com/pspsresources

#### **Backup Power Transfer Meter**

Devices that automatically connect a home to generator power during an outage

i pge.com/transfermeter

#### **Fixed Power Solutions**

Permanent, long-term backup power solutions for the most impacted customers

i pge.com/residentialstorageinitiative

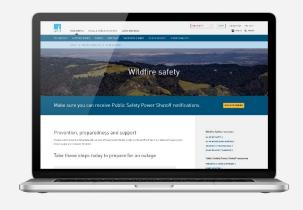
#### **Weather Monitoring and Awareness**

Interactive weather map, 7-day forecast and fire-detection satellite map

i pge.com/weather



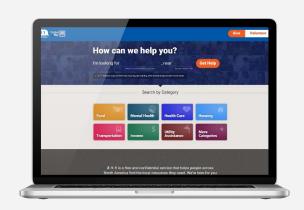
#### **Additional Customer Resources**



#### **Wildfire Safety**

Information on wildfire prevention efforts

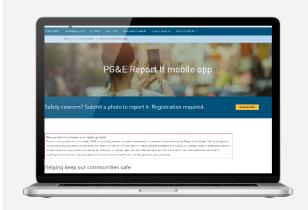
i pge.com/wildfiresafety



#### 211

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

<u>i</u> 211ca.org



#### **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

# Questions



Please type your question in the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen.

### **Contact Information**



#### **Kristen Burke**

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#### **Angela Nielsen**

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# Thank You



Thank you for participating in today's webinar.

For education questions, contact: CHA Education at <a href="mailto:education@calhospital.org">education@calhospital.org</a>