

Working Together To Address Wildfire Risks

In response to the growing threat of wildfires and their potential impact to the life, health, and safety of communities, the electric power industry and its government partners are elevating their wildfire risk mitigation and response efforts to a national level.

The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), which serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the industry, focuses on actions and strategies that help protect the energy grid, prevent various threats from disrupting electricity service, and develop capabilities so that the sector quickly can respond and recover when major incidents impact the grid.

Given the risks and impacts associated with wildfires, the ESCC has made wildfire mitigation and response a priority. To that end, industry and government leaders are partnering to:

- Enable more **effective coordination** among stakeholders, including electric companies, electrical workers, interdependent sectors, first responders, and government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Foster **urgency and accountability** for all stakeholders. More needs to be done—and done quickly—to address wildfire risks.
- Improve the **allocation of resources** to harmonize programs, prioritize efforts, and ensure new programs that have potential to address wildfires are funded and utilized effectively.
- Identify and address **public policy** issues that may be hindering effective wildfire risk management and response efforts.
- **Prepare communities** in high fire risk areas by communicating with a more unified voice before, during, and after incidents.

Industry and government will continue to bring their extraordinary capabilities and resources to support efforts to mitigate the wildfire threat; better detect where and when wildfires might happen; and then more effectively respond and recover when incidents do occur. ►

Areas of focus include:

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| Mitigation | Land Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More frequent and timely routine and emergency vegetation management around critical electricity infrastructure Land management policies that reduce fuel for fires Operational and maintenance activities that enhance resiliency against wildfire threats |
| | Enhanced Operational Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) that limit scope, duration, and frequency of outages Targeted undergrounding of electric lines Enhanced inspections in high-risk areas |
| | System Hardening & Technology Deployment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced downed line recognition Covered conductor, protective devices and reclosers, improved network segmentation More accurate line-fault detection and sensors Near real-time automatic shutdown Faster and more intelligent reclosers |
| Detection | Situational Awareness & Information Sharing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment and integration of sensor arrays on electricity infrastructure Shared satellite information in advance, during, and after an incident Enhanced information sharing and operational collaboration Inventory of biomass conditions Drone use 24/7 monitoring and incident command |
| | Modeling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizing high-risk circuits and locations Advanced weather modeling Predictive fire spread modeling |
| Response & Recovery | Fire Containment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved information sharing with firefighters and other emergency responders Exploration of the viability of electric industry rights-of-way as fire breaks |
| | Energy Grid Restoration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated mutual assistance practices to address unique challenges of fire-related industry support Timely access to impacted areas post-incident |