



FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE December 6, 2023
PREPARED FOR Mayor and Town Council
PREPARED BY Heather Abrams, Town Manager
SUBJECT Receive report from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) regarding electricity outage and reliability information.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive PG&E informational report.

DISCUSSION

Electricity outages, utility reliability, and PG&E vegetation management programs have been a significant focus in Fairfax. Over the summer, Mayor Cutrano requested reliability data from PG&E and the attached presentation was developed by PG&E. The Mayor, staff, and PG&E representatives met several times to discuss the information. Mayor Cutrano requested that the attached presentation be displayed to the public in the consent calendar in order to address questions and concerns to PG&E on vegetation management, enhanced powerline safety settings, and mitigating fire risk. Previously, staff shared updates about PG&E's [wildfire management efforts](#), as well as their [circuit improvement work](#) in Fairfax on the Town's website and in the Town's newsletter.

Additional information about PG&E's work on electrical safety can be found [online](#).

ATTACHMENTS

PG&E Presentation

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Town of Fairfax Local Government Forum

2023



Safety

Preparedness Tips

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

Build a disaster supply kit for you, your family or your business

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

Visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com to help prepare for an emergency



Topics For Discussion

- 1 Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk
- 2 Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)
- 3 Reducing the Impact of Outages
- 4 Customer Resources and Support
- 5 Open Discussion



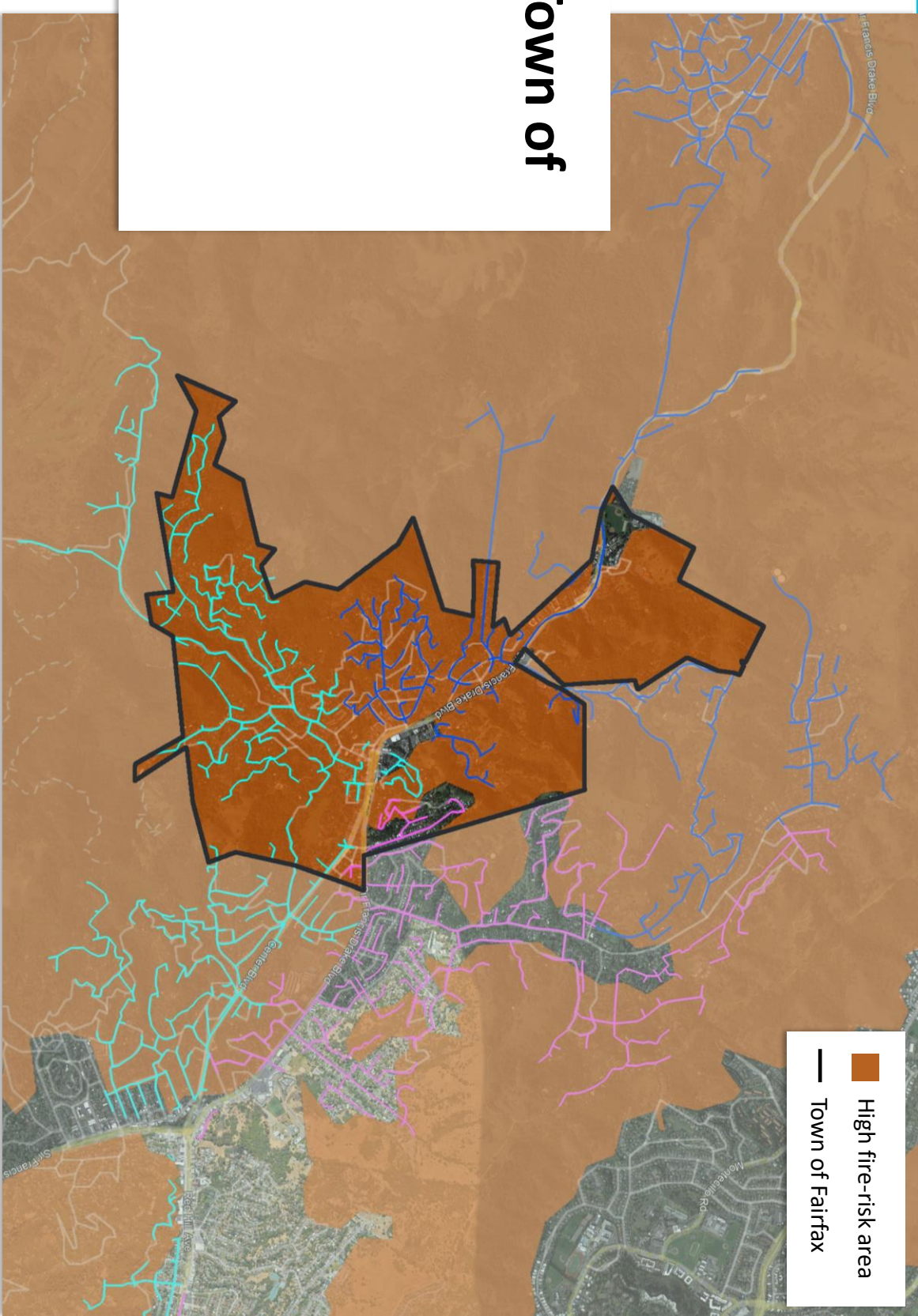
Identifying and Reducing Wildfire Risk



Wildfire Risk in the Town of Fairfax

Circuits serving the Town of Fairfax:

- San Rafael-1104
- San Rafael-1108
- Woodacre-1102



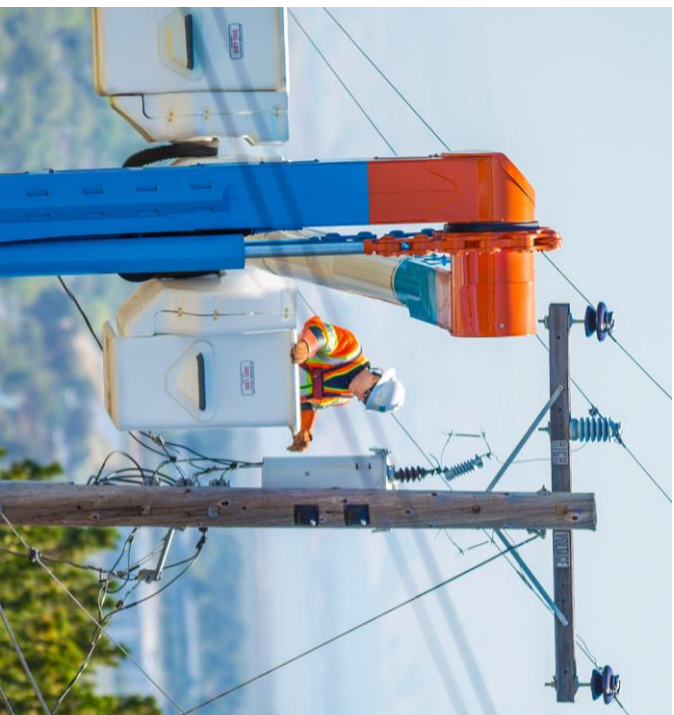
- High fire-risk area
- Town of Fairfax

Key Wildfire Safety Objectives This Year

Prevent
Wildfires



Reduce
Impacts to Communities



Enhance
Customer Support



Layers of Safety Protect Customers From Wildfires

Using the latest technologies such as weather cameras to monitor daily conditions



Ensuring safety with enhanced protection and temporary outages



Keeping trees and branches away from powerlines to prevent them from contacting lines



Installing stronger powerlines and poles to withstand severe weather



Undergrounding 10,000 miles of powerlines in the highest fire-risk areas to reduce ignition risk



Together,
These layers
reduce wildfire
risk from
equipment

Keeping Trees Away From Powerlines

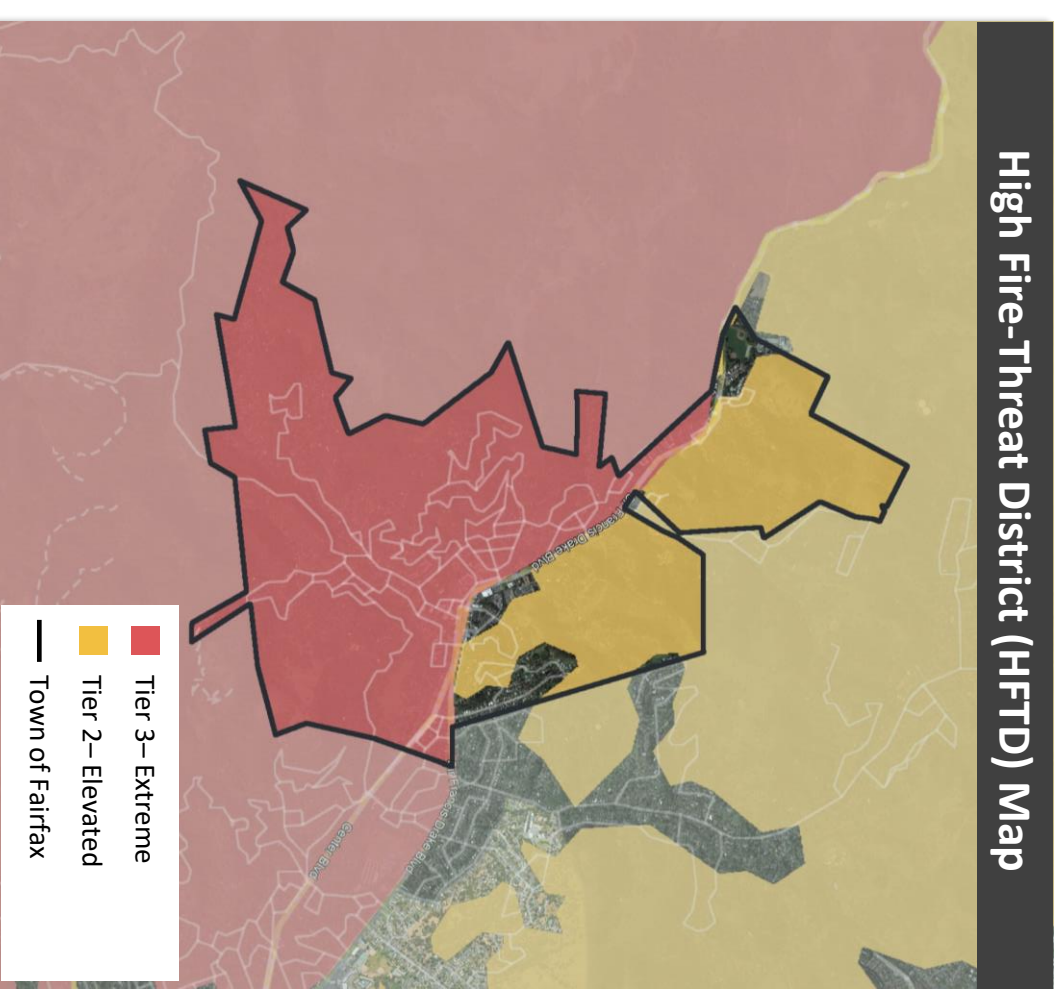
When trees are too close to powerlines, they can cause outages and serious safety issues. That's why each year we:

- ✓ Inspect ~100,000 miles of overhead powerlines
- ✓ Prune or cut down more than 1 million trees that are an unsafe distance from the line
- ✓ 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

	Non-High Fire-Threat Districts	High Fire-Threat Districts
Work	Year-round vegetation work to meet state standards	Year-round work <i>plus</i> 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	~2	~24



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

Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings



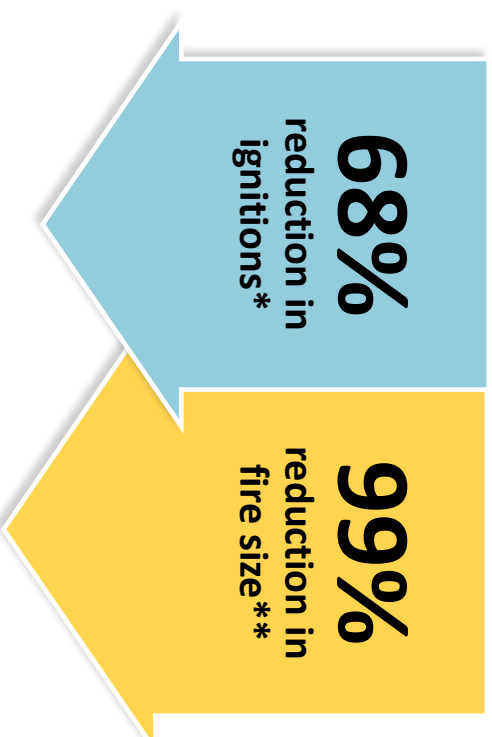
Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings: A Technology To Prevent Wildfires

How It Works

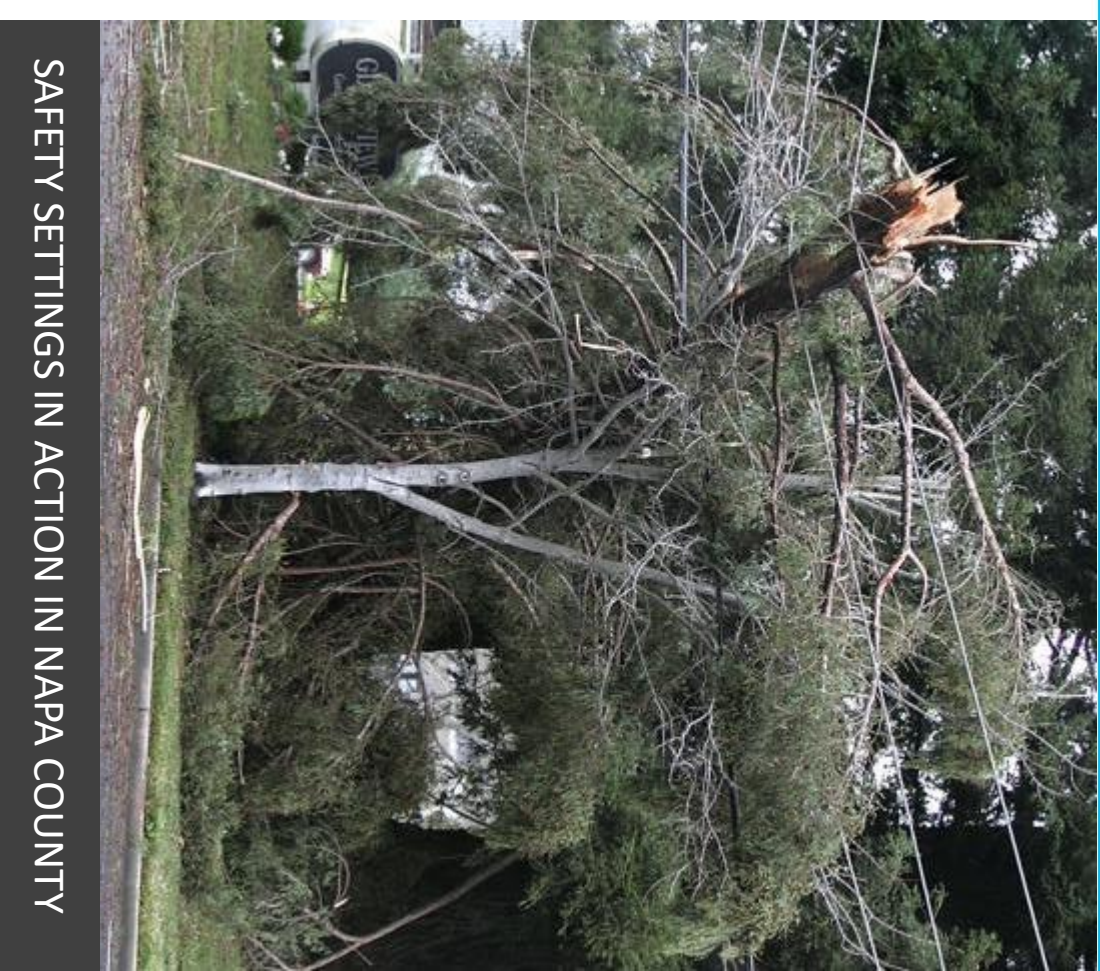
Turning off power within one-tenth of a second if a tree branch or other object strikes the line.

Why We Do It

Stopping wildfires before they have a chance to start.

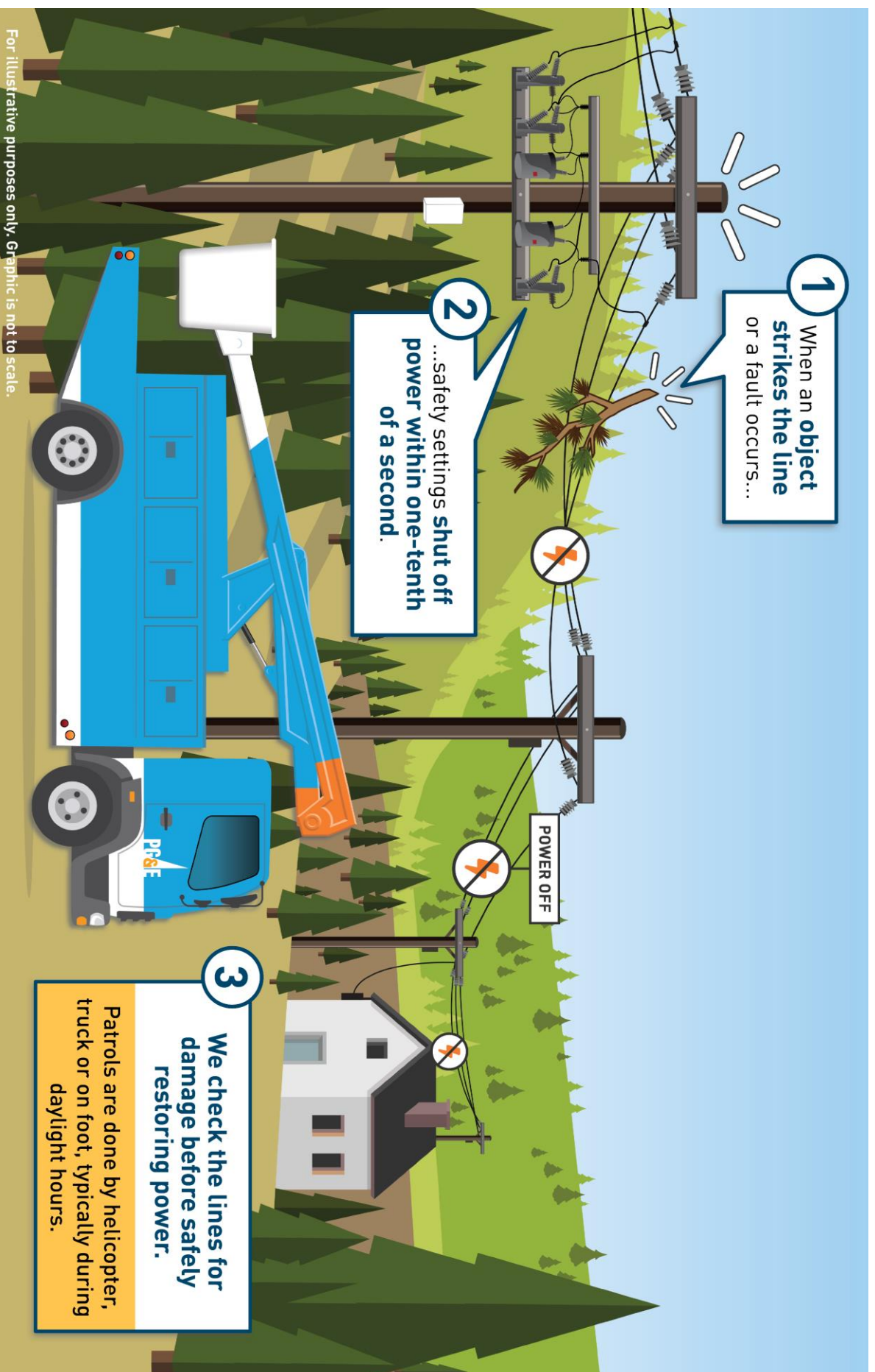


*Data is approximate; *Based on 2022 performance for CPUC-reportable ignitions in HFTD compared to 2018-2020 weather-normalized performance; **Relative to 2018-2020*



SAFETY SETTINGS IN ACTION IN NAPA COUNTY

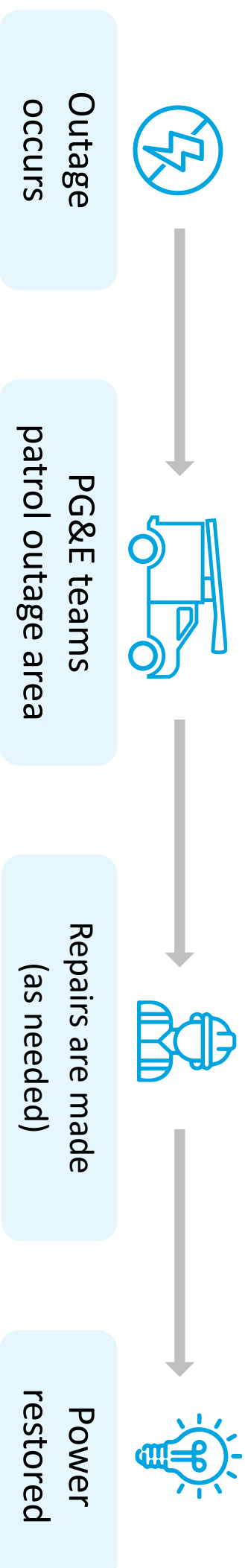
Safety Settings, Step-By-Step



For illustrative purposes only. Graphic is not to scale.

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

What Customers Can Expect



Customer notifications and updates including estimated restoration times through automated texts, calls or emails

Ongoing website updates with outage information and estimated restoration times

i **Customers** can find information on outage status and restoration process at [pge.com/outages](https://www.pge.com/outages)

Reducing the Impact of Outages

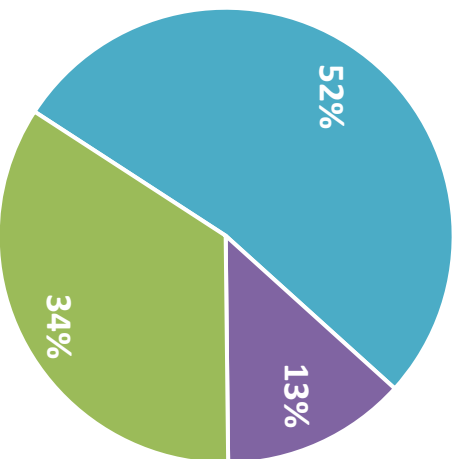


Town of Fairfax Outage Summary – 2021-2022

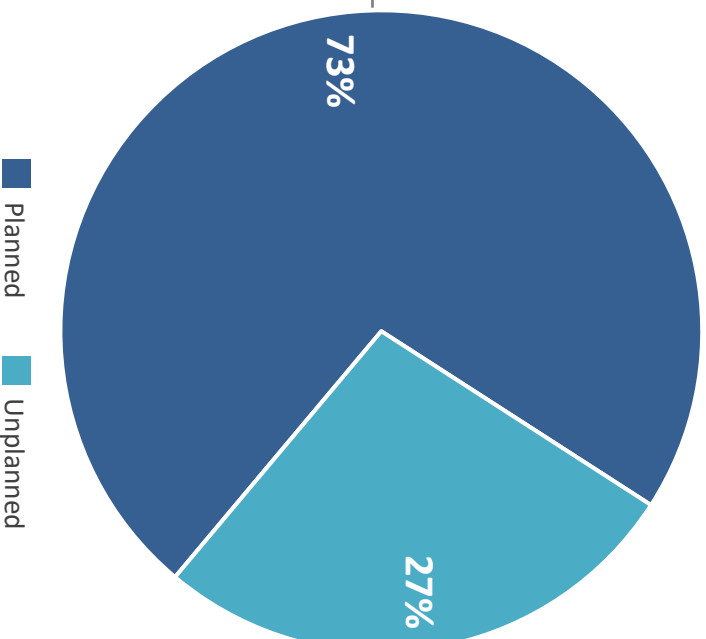
2021-2022 Outages

Total Outages: 91
Average Duration: ~ 4.8 hours
Average # of Customers affected: ~205

Planned Outages (67)

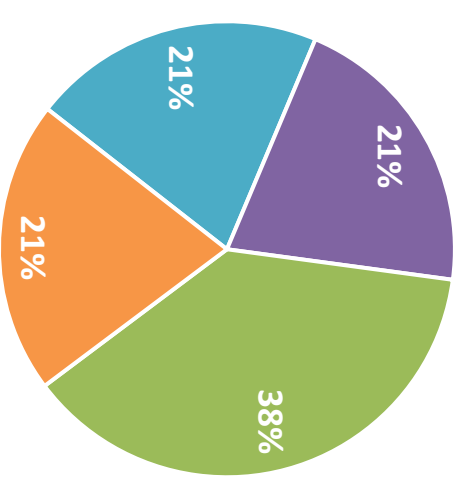


- System Hardening and Wildfire Safety Inspections
- Maintenance
- Capital Improvement Projects



- Planned
- Unplanned

Unplanned Outages (24)



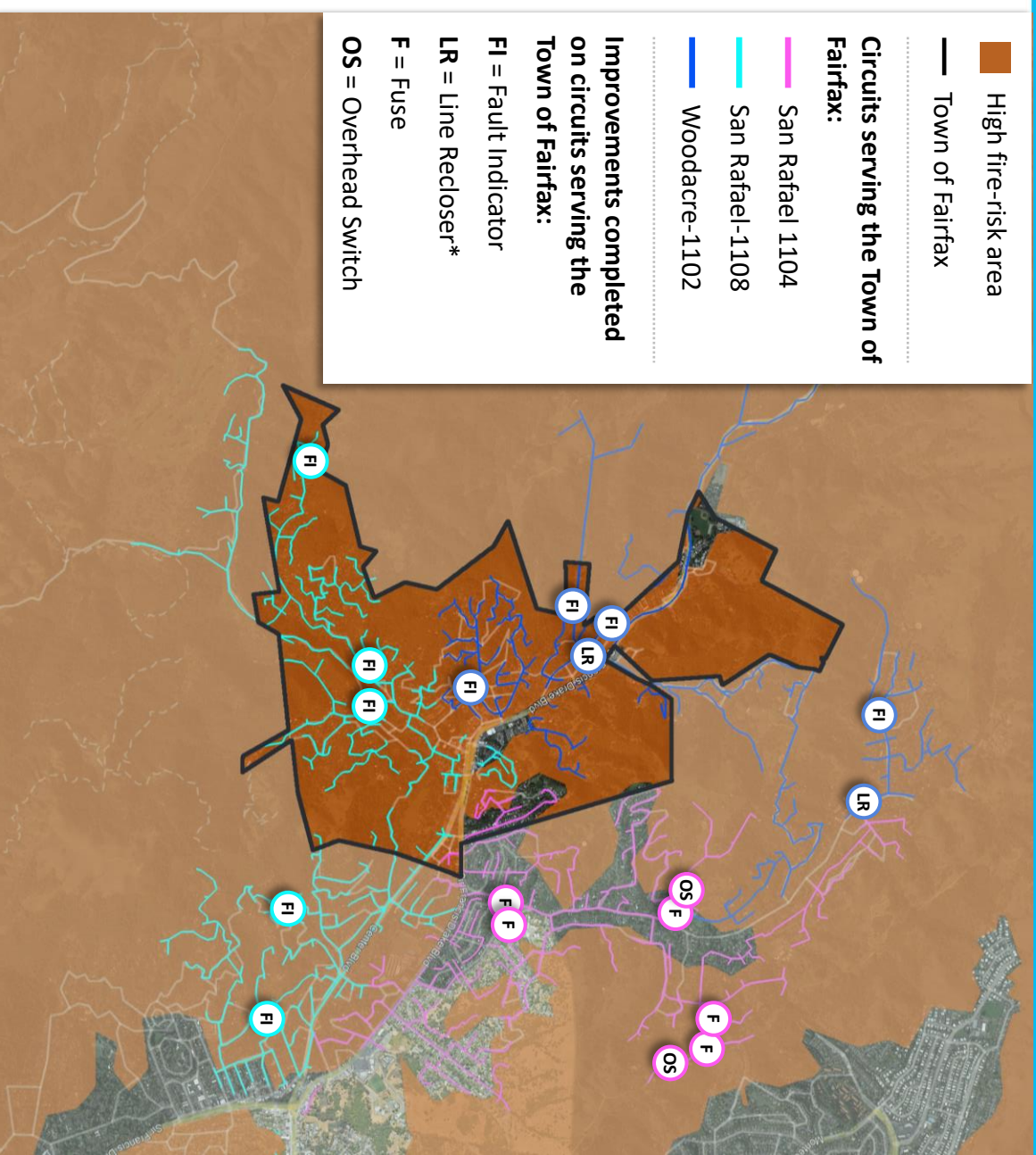
- Animal
- Vegetation
- Undetermined
- Equipment

Circuit Improvements Map

We have taken steps to improve reliability on circuits serving the Town of Fairfax.

This work is ongoing and includes installing:

- ✓ **9 fault indicators**
- ✓ **2 line reclosers**
- ✓ **5 fuses**
- ✓ **2 overhead switches**

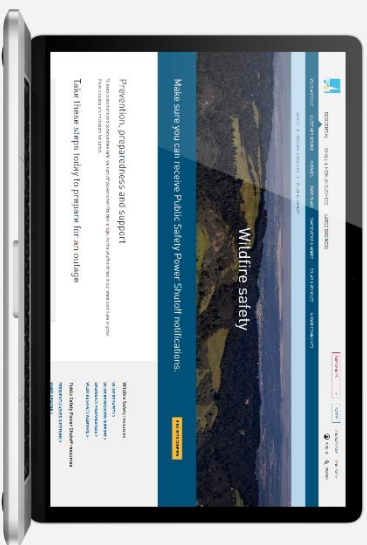


**Completion planned for June 2023
Some of the measures included in this presentation are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.*

Customer Resources and Support



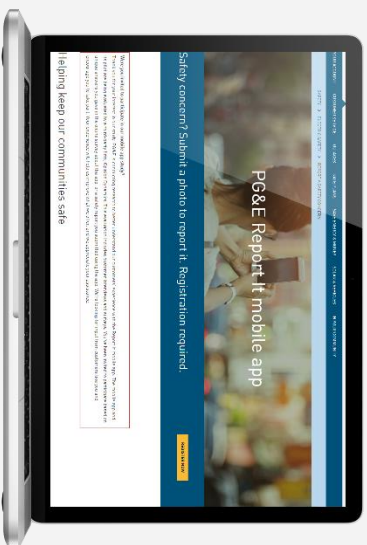
Customer Resources



Wildfire Safety

Information on wildfire prevention efforts

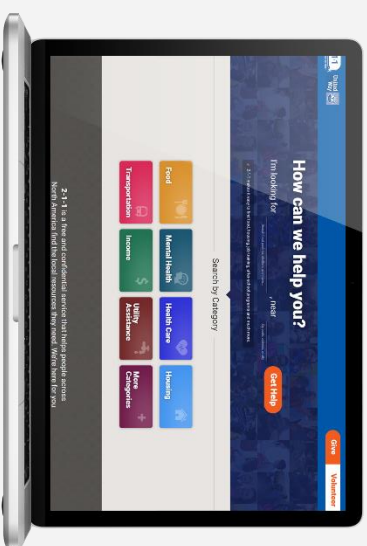
pge.com/wildfiresafety



Report It App

Submit photos of non-emergency potential safety concerns

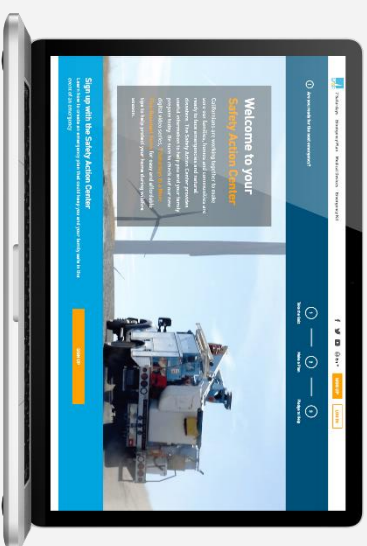
pge.com/reportit



211

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

211ca.org



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

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

Customer Support Before, During and After An Outage

EPSS & PSPS Support

- **Portable Battery Program** **EXPANDED ACCESS**
No-cost portable backup battery solutions, mini-fridges, and insulin cooler wallets
- **Self-Generation Incentive Program**
Rebates to help customers purchase permanent battery storage
- **Generator and Battery** **EXPANDED ACCESS**
Rebate Program
Rebates with purchase of a portable generator or battery
- **Disability Disaster Access and Resources**
Emergency preparedness planning, portable batteries, and support for Access and Functional Needs customers
- **Fixed Power Solutions**
Permanent, long-term backup power solutions for the most impacted customers
- **Backup Power Transfer Meter**
Devices that automatically connect a home to generator power during an outage

pge.com/pspsresources

pge.com/epss

pge.com/backuppower

Open Discussion



Thank You



Appendix



Working With Customers

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

- 1 **Advance notifications** before inspections or tree work begins on your property
- 2 **Inspections** to identify potential safety concerns
- 3 **Tree work** following the inspection to complete any necessary safety work
- 4 **Safety and quality checks** through follow-up inspections to ensure work meets the required safety standards

