









# California Wildfire Advisory Board

Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### Presenters:

Kevin Schiedler, Director, Wildfire Mitigation Program Nora Yotsov, Director, Emergency Management Steve Vanderburg, Meteorology Manager Tyler Averyt, Emergency Manager



### Agenda

Introductions and Objectives

Service Territory refresher

**PSPS** History and Risk

Overview and what's new in Situational Awareness

2023 Fire Season recap

- Head Fire (Happy Camp Complex) in Siskiyou County
- Smith River Complex in Del Norte County

#### Preparedness

- Recap of 2023 efforts
- Upcoming 2024 efforts
- Medical Baseline and Access and Functional Needs identification and resources

Grid Hardening Update

Elevated Fire Risk Settings (EFR)

Q&A

- Open discussion
- Suggestions for meeting topics

Next Steps





### Introductions

#### Wildfire Advisory Board members

➤ Name and Affiliation

#### **Pacific Power**

- Nora Yotsov, Director of Emergency Management
- > Steve Vanderburg, Meteorology Manager
- > Tyler Averyt, Emergency Management Program Manager
- > Kevin Schiedler, Director of Wildfire Mitigation Program
- ➤ Jill Drinkwater, Regional Business Manager
- ➤ Lisa Corbly, Senior Emergency Management Planner
- ➤ Keven Hoopiiana, Wildfire Mitigation Program Delivery Program Manager
- > Tracey Moreland, Tribal Liaison Representative

### Objectives

- Provide a formal environment to share lessons learned between communities and PacifiCorp
- Gather feedback from this working group on de-energization

The wildfire advisory board will advise on all wildfire matters including all aspects of Pacific Power's mitigation plans, communications and public safety power shutoff.

Wildfire Advisory Board Schedule and Topics

April Q2 Meeting Wildfire Season preparation November Q4 Meeting End of Year Wrap Up

> Follow up on action items from previous meetings



### PacifiCorp's Service Territory (refresher)

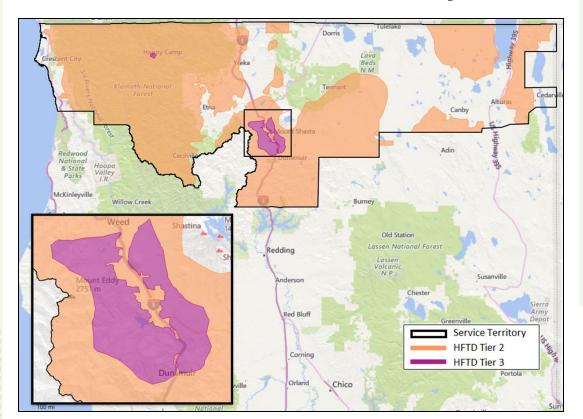
#### **General Stats**

PacifiCorp provides electricity to approximately 45,000 California customers via **62 substations**, **2,500 miles** of distribution lines, and about 780 miles of transmission lines across nearly **11,000 square** miles

#### System Wide Initiatives

- Weather Stations
- Situational Awareness
- **Operational Protocols**
- Community Education and Outreach

#### **California Service Territory**



#### **HFTD**

Heightened Risk of Wildfire

Approximately **1,200** miles or 36% of all overhead lines are located within the HFTD

850 miles of overhead **distribution** in the HFTD:

350 miles of overhead transmission in the **HFTD** 

#### 2022 **D**Accomplishments

Replaced 62 miles of bare conductor with insulated covered conductor

Upgraded 57 reclosers, relays, and circuit breakers for enhanced protection and control

Installed 2,095 expulsion fuses

#### **Program Changes**

- ✓ **Increased** Frequency of Asset Inspections
- **Enhanced** Vegetation Management
- Covered Conductor Installation
- ✓ Advanced Protection and Control
- **Expulsion Fuse Replacements**





### PSPS History & Risk

PSPS is the intersection of wildfire risk and weather-related outage risk



PSPS	History
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Year	# of Events	Event Duration	Total Customers Affected	AFN/ Medical Baseline Customers Affected	Critical Facilities Affected	CRCs Activated
2020	1	7.9 hours	2,559	5	13	0
2021	1	9.6 hours	1,953	11	19	1
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

GACC RISK									
Year	Moderate Risk Days	Earliest Moderate Risk Date	Latest Moderate Risk Date	High Risk Days					
2021	122	May 6	Oct 17	37					
2022	96	Jun 11	Oct 31	22					
2023	121	Apr 26	Oct 29	14					

Continue using PSPS as a tool and a temporary measure:

#### **Decision incorporates multiple factors:**

- ☐ Real Time Monitoring of Local Conditions
- ☐ Weather Forecasting & Risk
- ☐ Dynamic Input from Public Safety Partners

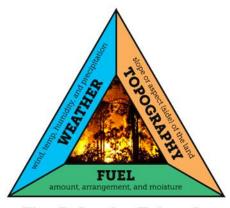
#### Mitigating Impacts of PSPS with:

- ☐ Enhanced planning & preparations
- ☐ Advanced warning and notifications
- ☐ CRC Activation to provide community services
- ☐ Customer Generation Programs

2023 Accomplishments / Updated Methodology:

#### Forecast Enhancements and Wildfire Research:

- ☐ WFA-E Consequence Modeling
- ☐ Red Flag Warnings (RFW) Criteria
- WRF Forecasts
- ☐ Fuels Conditions (Grasses, Live Fuels, & Dead Fuels)
- ☐ Grassland / Rangeland Wildfires Analysis
- ☐ Modified Hot-Dry-Windy Index (mHDWI)
- ☐ Fire High Consequence Area Mapping (FHCA)
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning
- ☐ Self-Organizing Maps (SOM)

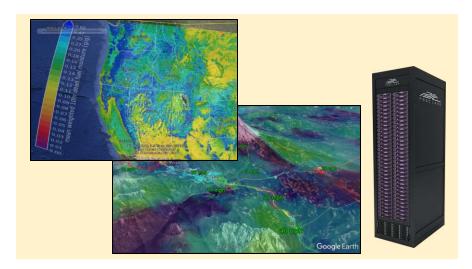


Fire Behavior Triangle

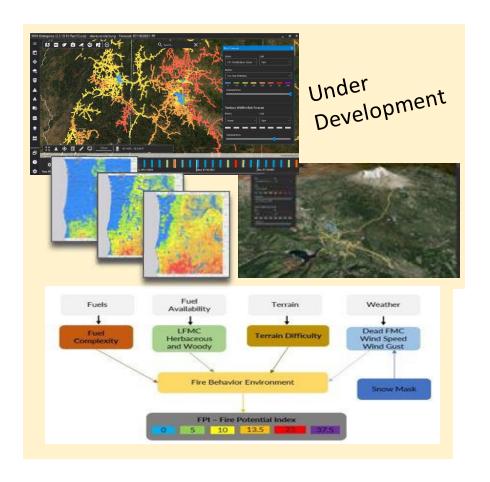
### Situational Awareness

#### **Advanced Wildfire Models**

- Millions of territory-wide wildfire simulations performed daily
- Wildfire risk and consequence forecasts
- Used for real-time decision making and long-term planning of system hardening



#### 2023 Plan - Fire Potential Index



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### 2023 Fire Season Recap

### **Happy Camp Complex (Head Fire)**

August 15th, 2023

- 353 Customers impacted
- 13 Damaged transmission poles
- 18 Damaged distribution poles
- 1 CRC established at the request of Siskiyou County EOC, supported 385 visitors

### **Smith River Complex**

August 18th, 2023

- 27,000 Customers impacted
- 5 Damaged transmission poles
- 14 Damaged distribution poles
- 2 CRC supported 4,000 visitors



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### Preparedness Education & Outreach

#### **2023 Completed Activities**

- ✓ Tabletop and functional PSPS exercise in Siskiyou County
- ✓ Increased customer communications
- ✓ Enhanced external coordination/communication
- ✓ Wildfire Detection Network Pilot

#### 2024 Planned Activities

- ✓ New Public Safety Partner Portal
- ✓ Installation of 6 more Wildfire Detection Cameras
- ✓ Continued partner & community support









delivering safe, afforesides, refuse

Here's what you can do now to

stay safe and informed

& contact sheet.

steps to take.

### Medical Baseline & AFN Customer Identification

#### CARE Program - Updated in 2021

- ✓ All applications and re-certification forms were updated with the following:
- Check this box if someone in your household has a disability, or requires accessibility, financial or language support during a public safety power outage. Pacific Power will provide an additional notification prior to a public safety power shut off. For more information, visit pacific power.net/wildfire.
- Forms are mailed to residential and master-meter customers to enroll in the discounted rate schedule or to re-certify and remain on the rate.

#### **Medical Customers**

- Customers can self-certify as a medical customer with no documentation.
- All medical customers are coded as AFN customers.
- All customers receiving an application for medical certification will receive information and will be able to identify as an AFN customer.



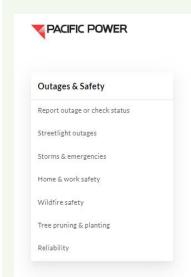
### 2023 Improvements

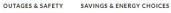
- PacifiCorp continues to seek improvements to identifying the electricity dependent customers with AFN through defining, mapping, and enabling self-identification, and has mapped their respective databases to code customer accounts accordingly
- As a part of the planning process, the team also worked to identify the targeted individuals and benchmark with state agencies to create an informed estimate of the number and types of individuals with disabilities and others with AFN residing in the community
- As of November 2023, 1,204 customers in PacifiCorp's databases have a medical baseline code on their account. This represents an increase of just over 2% from the last report.
- All medical baseline customers are identified as AFN customers.

2022 - 2023 AFN Customer Counts							
2022 AFN	2023 AFN	Total Increase					
1173	1204	31					

### Backup Generation and Portable Battery Programs

#### **NEW Website and Reference Material**











#### Backup electric power

An electric generator can be a valuable addition to your preparedness plan in the event of a power outage. Because generators are not connected to the power grid, they can help keep lights on and appliances operating, as well as charge important

We can help you determine if a portable generator or portable power station is right for your home and learn how to safely use these sources of backup power generation.



#### Choose your state for more about generators, safety and possible rebates

IS BACKUP POWER RIGHT FOR YOU?

**USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY** 

**CALIFORNIA GENERATOR REBATES** 

#### Steps to help select backup power

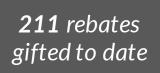
A portable electric generator or a portable power station can help provide electricity to the appliances, devices and systems that you need most in an emergency. But they can also be loud, costly and potentially pose safety hazards. If you decide that a portable generator is right for you, it is essential to learn how to safely operate the device prior to an emergency. Generators also require proper storage, access to fuel and regular safety checks.

Types of generators for home use

https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety/storm-emergency-preparedness/backup-generators.html

#### **Generator Rebate Program**

• Up to a \$300 rebate offered on the purchase of a backup power supply to all Pacific Power customers in California, Additional rebate of \$500 to Access and Functional Needs (AFN) customers (total rebate of up \$800)





### **Free Portable Battery Program**

Implemented in 2021 to provide back-up batteries – at no cost – to medical baseline customers. To date, 84 eligible customers have received batteries.

#### Program Includes:

- Technical assessment of needs
- Free-to-the customer portable batteries
- **Training**
- **Customer Support**

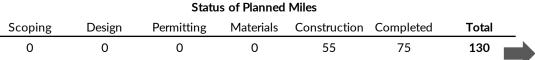
#### Customer Feedback:

- ✓ Felt more prepared for PSPSs after they received batteries
- ✓ Felt good about the customer care provided and
- ✓ Provided positive feedback on the program



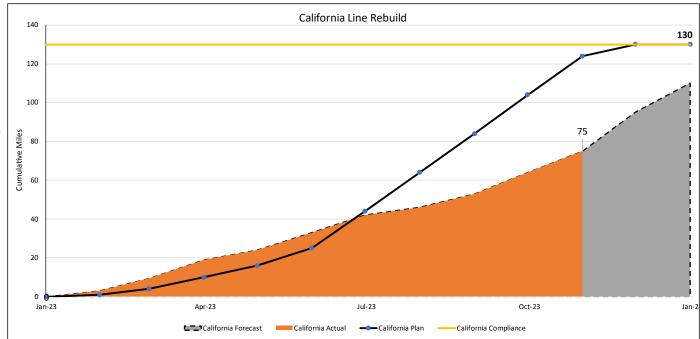
### Line Rebuild California Covered conductor installation

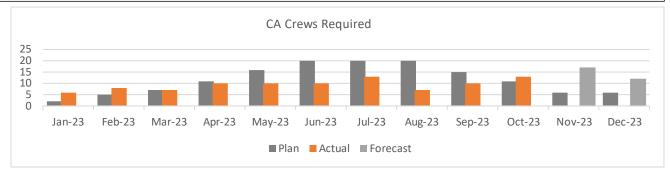
Status as of: October 31, 2023



#### **Potential Challenges:**

- Construction Crews
  - Crews are being secured for the final 2023 planned projects which are ready for construction.
  - Crew count increased in October and forecast to increase again in November.
- Critical permits still needed for projects
  - Major permits for 2023 construction received, many 2024 permits in process.



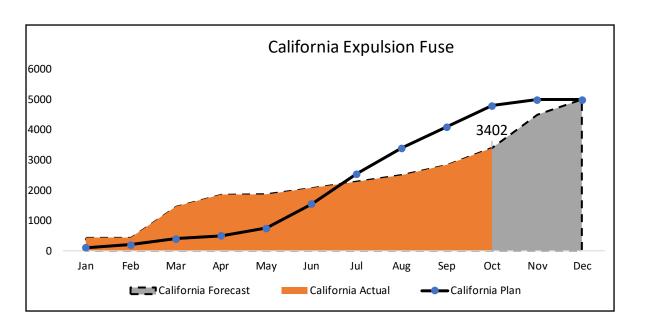


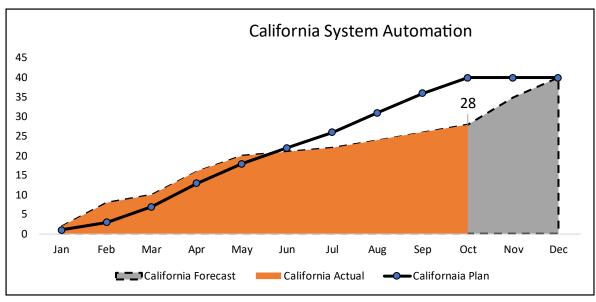
	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	
Plan	16	25	44	64	84	104	124	130	130	130	130	130	
Actual	38	63	63	76	84	101	106	108	130	130			
Forecast											130	130	

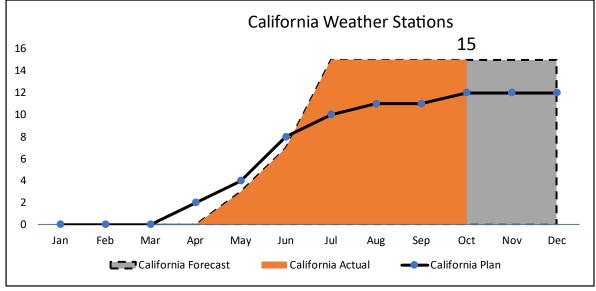
## System Automation, Weather Stations and Expulsion Fuse Replacements

Status as of: October 31, 2023

- Programs are currently on track to meet 2023 plan targets
- SMU-20 type fuse construction has started. Awards have been made to complete 2023 scope in 2023.
- System Automation work planned for Crescent City resumed in September after the system was returned to normal mid-month.







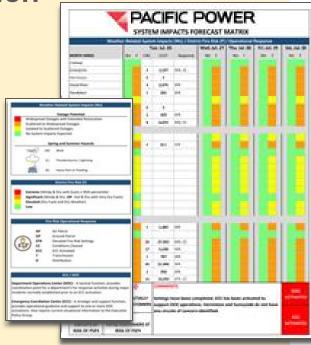


### Elevated Fire Risk (EFR) Settings

- Pacific Power is upgrading relays and reclosers (grid hardening)
- These upgraded devices are now capable of multiple types of settings or "modes", including Elevated Fire Risk (EFR) settings
- While no two circuits are the same, EFR settings are designed to clear faults in < 1 second and limit arc energy, as compared to traditional schemes where clearing times can be 4-10 seconds

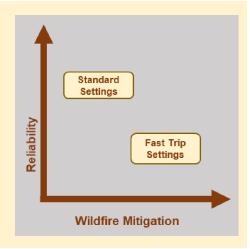
### **Risk-Based Application**

- EFR Settings are deployed using a risk-based approach
- Daily reports are used to determine whether EFR settings are needed
- Standard outage notification and communication protocols are followed
- **Enhanced patrolling** performed during restoration



### **Deployment of CFCIs**

- Risk based deployment of EFR settings can still have an inverse impact on reliability
- Deployment of CFCIs (fault indicators) improves restoration time and can reduce impact to customers



### **EFR Activations and Outage** Investigations

- New engineering team (Real-Time Engineering) added to Control Center
- Leads outage investigations for EFR related outages to determine root cause and **implement corrective actions** to mitigate future occurrence
- Advises Control Center FFR activations to further reduce impact to customers

### Next Steps

- Questions
- > Suggestions for meeting topics
- ➤ 2024 Meeting series (April and November)





# Thank you!

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