



PG&E is working together with cities, counties and communities across our service area to implement safety projects. We are providing the following information to address questions PG&E received during the July 27, 2020 Lafayette City Council Meeting.

Community Wildfire Safety Program

Given years of drought and increasing temperatures, we have a responsibility to work together to improve our Community Wildfire Safety Program (CWSP) to further reduce wildfire risks and help keep our customers and the communities we serve safe. This program includes real-time monitoring and situational awareness tools, new and enhanced safety measures, and hardening of our electrical system.

Enhanced Vegetation Management

We have expanded and enhanced vegetation safety work to address vegetation that poses a higher potential for wildfire risk in high fire-threat areas. Our enhanced vegetation management work:

- Exceeds state standards for minimum clearances around power lines, including addressing overhanging limbs and branches above power lines.
- Conducts additional inspections, beyond routine patrols, to remove hazardous vegetation such as dead, diseased, dying or defective trees that pose a potential risk to the lines or equipment.

As part of our enhanced vegetation management work in the City of Lafayette, we evaluated hazard trees that need to be addressed for safety using the Tree Assessment Tool (TAT), which was developed by certified arborists. Based on our review, we identified 79 hazard trees that need to be removed for safety and one tree that requires overhang pruning along St. Mary's Road. On Moraga Road, 62 trees require removal and 10 trees require overhang pruning. We anticipate completing our EVM work on St. Mary's Road this month. Prior to beginning work on Moraga Road, we will notify the City and the community.

It's important to us that our customers and communities are informed of this work and have an opportunity to ask questions. PG&E has already reached out to and spoken with the landowners who have trees that are in scope in order to discuss the planned work.

If customers have any questions regarding this wildfire safety work, please contact our dedicated hotline at 1-877-295-4949 or email wildfiresafety@pge.com.



Questions and Answers

What is the difference between routine vegetation work and enhanced vegetation management work?

Through our annual routine vegetation management work, we meet important state vegetation and fire safety standards for minimum clearances around distribution power lines (CPUC General Order 95, Rule 35 and California Public Resources Code 4293). These standards require a 4-foot clearance from the lines with a recommended 12-foot clearance at the time of prune to ensure compliance year-round in high fire-threat areas. We also remove hazardous vegetation such as dead, diseased, defective or dying trees that pose a potential risk to the lines or equipment.

In addition to our routine compliance work, we exceed state standards for minimum clearances around the power lines, including addressing overhanging limbs and branches above power lines as part of our enhanced vegetation management program. We also conduct additional inspections, beyond routine patrols, to remove hazardous vegetation such as dead, diseased, dying or defective trees that could harm power lines or equipment.

How does PG&E identify hazard trees? What is the Tree Assessment Tool?

PG&E uses the Tree Assessment Tool (TAT) to identify hazard trees. Hazard trees are trees that are dead, diseased, defective, dying or have structural issues such as compromised root structure. These trees pose a substantial risk of falling into PG&E lines and equipment and must be addressed for public safety. The TAT was developed by certified arborists with input from outside experts to assess different components of a tree's health and risk of falling into PG&E lines or equipment and causing an ignition.

The TAT evaluates:

- Overall health of the tree and its limbs
- Condition of the tree and the surrounding environment that could cause the tree to fall
- Likelihood of the tree hitting power lines or electric equipment if it falls
- Weight distribution of the tree, or tree limb that is near a power line
- Possible damage or harm that could result if the tree or tree limb hits the power line
- Likelihood of the tree causing an ignition or outage during fire season

Does PG&E have certified arborists reviewing each tree?

Each tree identified for work along St. Mary's Road has been reviewed by a certified arborist and all trees identified for work on Moraga Road will be individually reviewed by a certified arborist prior to beginning work. Additionally, all work is overseen by certified arborists.

How does PG&E engage customers with respect to trimming/removing trees near the line?

We want our customers to be completely informed about this important safety work. We are reaching out to customers in advance of the enhanced vegetation management tree work through postcards, door knocks and door hangers. We also work together with our customers to review the work and answer questions.

Our dedicated customer outreach specialists will respond to customers within one business day for any inquiry we receive on our dedicated phone line (1-877-295-4949) or email address



(wildfiresafety@pge.com). The outreach specialist will work directly with the customer to answer any questions about the work and schedule time for an onsite review on any necessary safety work.

Can a property owner decline the work?

The answer to this question depends, in large part, on the particular location of a tree relative to the area covered by PG&E's easement(s) and the language of the relevant PG&E easement burdening a landowner's property. PG&E's public utility easements typically grant it authority and discretion to prune or remove trees or vegetation that may reasonably interfere with the operation and maintenance of its facilities without requiring permission from the landowner, but each circumstance must be evaluated independently. In each case here, PG&E has already reached out to and spoken with the landowners who have trees on their property that are in scope in order to discuss the planned work. Customers can reach out to PG&E at LandQuestions@pge.com or call 1-877-259-8314 if they have any questions regarding the area near the power lines or the easement on their property.

Have all the electric lines/poles in the City of Lafayette been inspected?

Yes, all overhead electric lines and poles are routinely patrolled and inspected. Poles are patrolled annually in urban areas and every other year in rural areas. They receive a detailed visual inspection every five years and an intrusive inspection and testing every 10 to 20 years (exceeding the state required frequency of every 20 years).

Overhead power lines are patrolled annually in urban areas and every other year in rural areas. All overhead lines receive a detailed inspection every five years.

In the areas of Lafayette located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the CPUC's High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) map, PG&E completed enhanced inspections of all electric structures in 2019 under our Wildfire Safety Inspection Program. As a further enhancement in 2020, PG&E has increased the cycle time for overhead detailed inspections in Tier 3 to annually and in Tier 2 to every three years.

See PG&E's website for more information on the 2019 Wildfire Safety Inspection Program and our 2020 [System Inspections Program](#).

Can you provide a report or status update on the 2019 Lafayette fire investigation?

There were two fires in Lafayette on October 27, 2019: (1) a fire on Camino Diablo Road involving the Lafayette Tennis Club; and (2) a grass fire on Pleasant Hill Road. Regarding the fire on Camino Diablo Road that involved a fallen utility pole, PG&E is conducting a privileged investigation of that fire which is not yet complete.

PG&E has concluded its investigation of the Pleasant Hill Road fire, finding that PG&E was not at fault. A telecommunications cable was installed with zero vertical clearance and less than 1.5 feet of horizontal clearance in relation to PG&E's secondary conductors. The lashing wire of that non-compliant communications cable made contact with PG&E's secondary conductors, causing arcing which resulted in hot metal particles falling on the dry vegetation below and starting the fire.