

# WILDFIRES

CLIMATE CHANGE--WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK OF THE SCIENCE, WE ARE SEEING IT IN ACTION.  
IT'S HOTTER, DRIER, AND WINDIER

AND IT'S MORE EXTREME WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. 10 YEARS AGO, 15% OF PG&E'S TERRITORY WAS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH FIRE RISK. TODAY, THAT FIGURE IS UP TO ALMOST 50%.



PAST DROUGHTS HAVE WEAKENED TREES, MAKING THEM VULNERABLE TO THE BARK BEETLE AND OTHER PESTS. CALIFORNIA HAS 150 MILLION DEAD TREES--A BIG SOURCE OF FUEL FOR FIRES.



FEDERAL AND STATE FOREST PRACTICES HAVE LET UNDERBRUSH GROW UP IN FORESTS--WHICH MEANS MORE FUEL FOR FIRES.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES HAVE ALLOWED 45% OF NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE IN URBAN WILDLAND INTERFACE AREAS, WHERE FIRE IS MOST LIKELY.

ALL OF THIS ADDS UP TO A VERY HIGH-RISK PROFILE FOR UTILITIES.



GRIDS ARE LARGE AND COMPLICATED MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. THEY CAN'T BE FAILSAFE.

WE KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO. THE KEY IS IN GRID HARDENING. UNDERGROUNDING, MICROGRIDS, DER, BATTERY STORAGE, COVERED WIRE, VEGETATION MANAGEMENT. ALL IMPORTANT STRATEGIES, BUT WORK TAKES TIME, AND MONEY.

IN THE MEANTIME, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS PRESENT A CERTAIN, IF INCONVENIENT, SOLUTION. MUCH OF PG&E'S GRID IS ON A RADIAL SYSTEM. CUSTOMERS WITH MINOR FIRE RISK GET SHUT DOWN IF THEY ARE ON THAT RADIAL. WE CAN'T TOTALLY ELIMINATE THE PSPS, BUT IT COULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO THEM ON A MORE TARGETED BASIS.



MITIGATING WILDFIRE RISK ISN'T SIMPLE. OR EASY. AND IT ISN'T CHEAP. BUT 1245 MEMBERS ARE READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO DO THE WORK FOR A GRID WITH NEW DEMANDS.