

COVERED CONDUCTOR KEEPS POWER FLOWING SAFELY



While winter storms brought relief for many communities facing drought and the threat of wildfires in 2022, rainfall has led to extensive vegetation growth throughout SCE's service area. Now that grasses and other plants are drying out, there is an increased risk of wildfires. The need for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) in 2023 will depend partly on the weather and fuel conditions that develop this year.



SCE's wildfire mitigation efforts include, in addition to PSPS, the installation of wildfire cameras and more than 1,660 weather stations, the use of predictive technologies, enhanced overhead inspections and the installation of thousands of miles of covered conductor on power lines in high fire risk areas. These measures help reduce the need for PSPS events (by allowing SCE to raise PSPS windspeed thresholds) and help with the grid's reliability.

After PSPS events, crews patrol affected areas to ensure debris and vegetation have not blown into our equipment. If damage or encroachments are found, crews clear the lines and make any needed repairs to ensure it's safe to restore power.

In the instances shown to the right, tree branches came into contact with covered conductor, but because the wires had a protective coating, these strikes did not cause a fault or sparking on the circuit. The wires performed as designed, reduced wildfire risk and customers did not experience an outage.

Over the last several years, SCE has prioritized the use of covered conductor to reduce the risk of wildfires as a fast and cost-effective option to reduce the risk of debris blown into lines damaging equipment or creating an ignition source during high-wind events. So far, SCE has installed more than 4,950 miles of covered conductor in high fire risk areas, with plans for thousands more miles in 2023 and beyond.



*Inspection photos show tree branches that came into contact with wires featuring the protective coating (covered conductor). Power remained safely on for customers in the Idyllwild area of Riverside County - Nov. 25, 2021.
Credit: Trenton Koury*



For additional information regarding SCE's ongoing wildfire mitigation work please visit
www.sce.com/mitigation