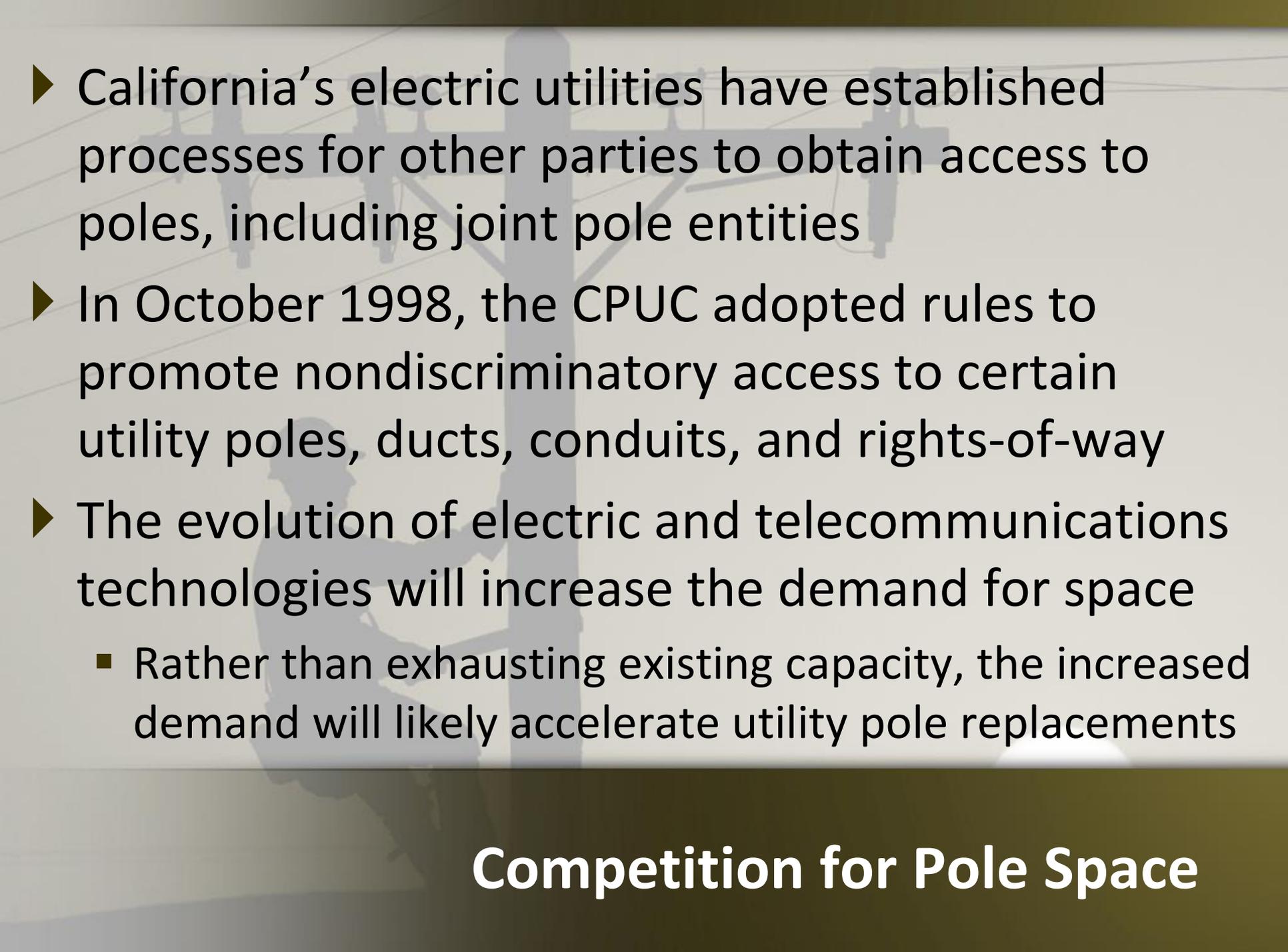
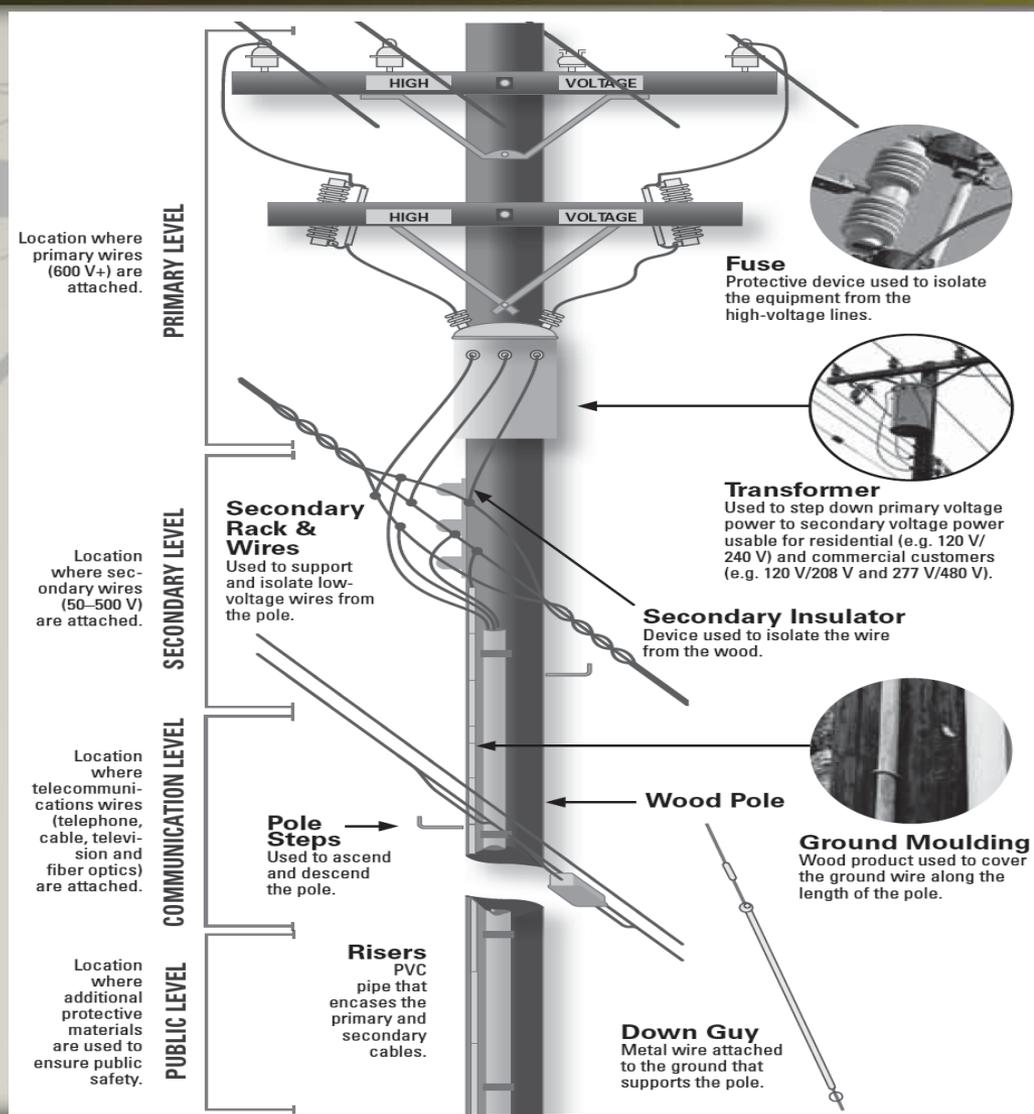
A silhouette of a utility worker wearing a hard hat and safety harness, sitting on a wooden utility pole. The worker is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The pole is a vertical wooden post with a horizontal crossarm across the top. Several power lines are strung across the crossarm, supported by insulators. The background is a plain, light-colored sky. The overall image is in a dark, monochromatic style, emphasizing the shapes of the worker and the pole.

# The State of Utility Poles in California

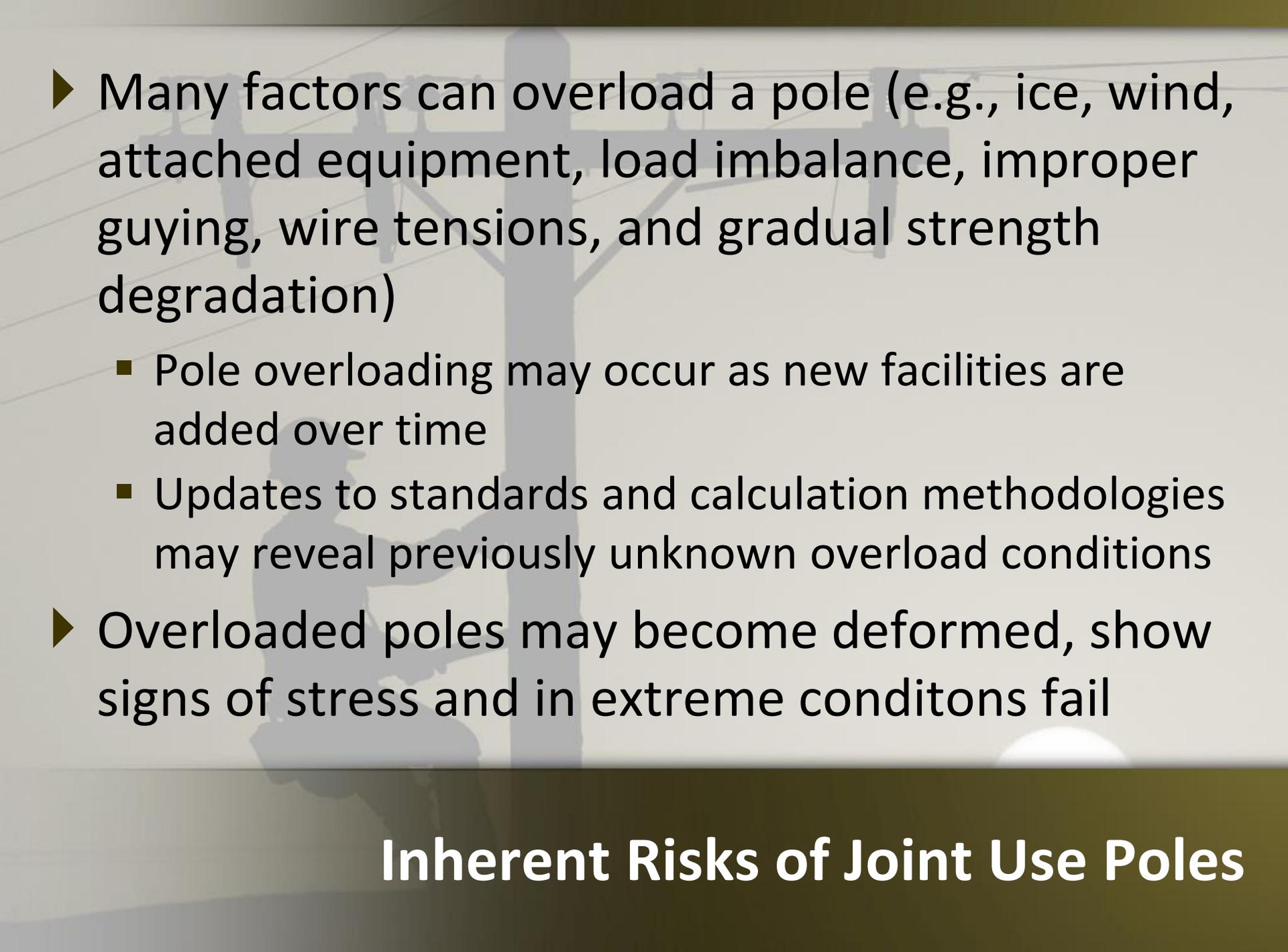
CPUC Utility Pole Safety En Banc  
April 28, 2016

- 
- ▶ California's electric utilities have established processes for other parties to obtain access to poles, including joint pole entities
  - ▶ In October 1998, the CPUC adopted rules to promote nondiscriminatory access to certain utility poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way
  - ▶ The evolution of electric and telecommunications technologies will increase the demand for space
    - Rather than exhausting existing capacity, the increased demand will likely accelerate utility pole replacements

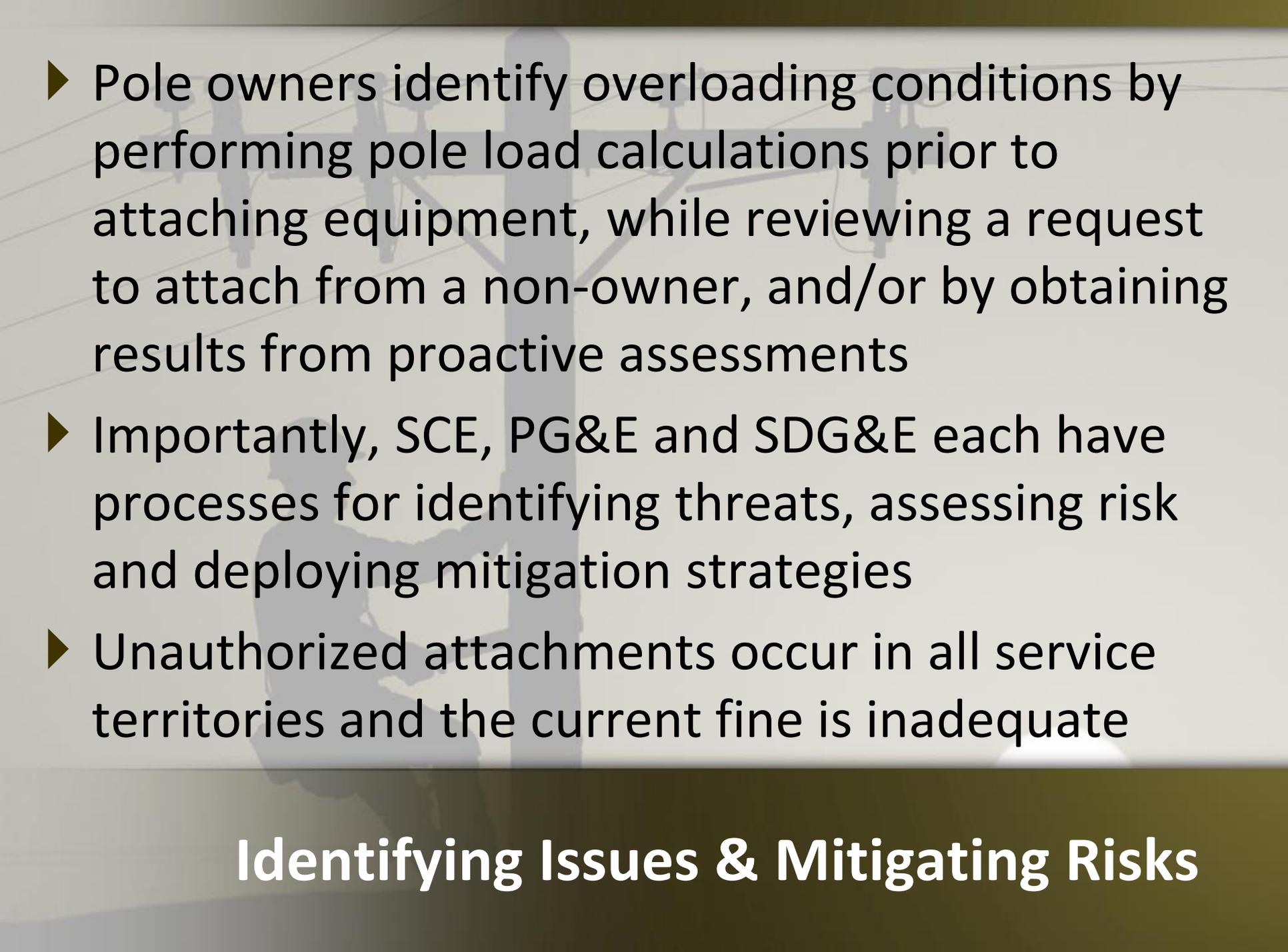
## **Competition for Pole Space**



# The Joint Use Utility Pole

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- The background of the slide features a faded, grayscale image of a utility pole. A person is visible climbing the pole, and various wires and equipment are attached to it. The scene is set against a light sky with a sun or moon partially visible on the right side.
- ▶ Many factors can overload a pole (e.g., ice, wind, attached equipment, load imbalance, improper guying, wire tensions, and gradual strength degradation)
    - Pole overloading may occur as new facilities are added over time
    - Updates to standards and calculation methodologies may reveal previously unknown overload conditions
  - ▶ Overloaded poles may become deformed, show signs of stress and in extreme conditions fail

## **Inherent Risks of Joint Use Poles**

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- A background image showing utility workers on a power pole. The workers are silhouetted against a lighter background, and the pole and cross-arms are visible. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.
- ▶ Pole owners identify overloading conditions by performing pole load calculations prior to attaching equipment, while reviewing a request to attach from a non-owner, and/or by obtaining results from proactive assessments
  - ▶ Importantly, SCE, PG&E and SDG&E each have processes for identifying threats, assessing risk and deploying mitigation strategies
  - ▶ Unauthorized attachments occur in all service territories and the current fine is inadequate

## Identifying Issues & Mitigating Risks

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- ▶ Under normal conditions, pole failures are seldom attributable to engineering and design issues
  - ▶ Compliance with standards and requirements promotes safety, but cannot guarantee it
  - ▶ California's IOUs are working with industry stakeholders as part of the G.O. 95/128 Rules Committee to promote best practices and address pole safety issues

## **Pole Engineering & Design Safety**



**Thank You!**