











# Public Safety Power Shut Off Post Season Briefing

April 18, 2023

## Presenters:

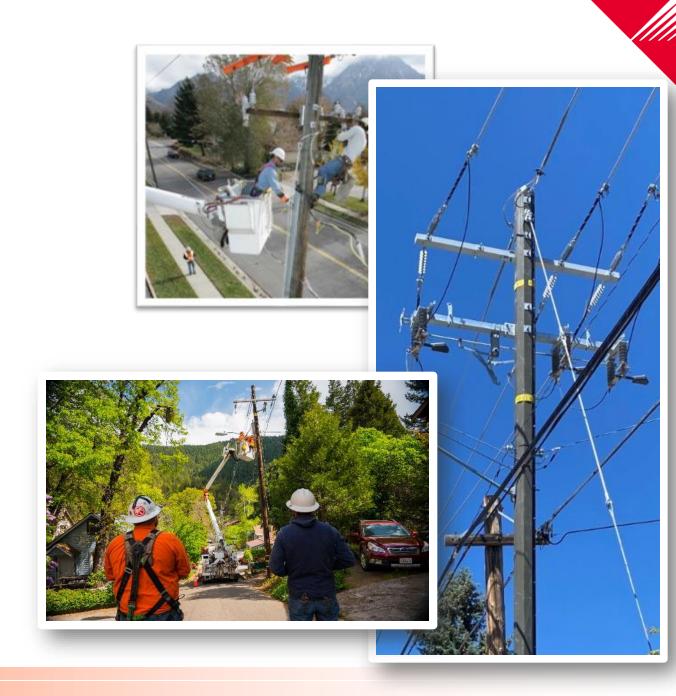
Allen Berreth, Vice President, T&D Operations Nora Yotsov, Director, Emergency Management Jona Whitesides, Senior Communications Specialist





# Agenda

- PacifiCorp's California Service Territory
- Event History & Risk
- Situational Awareness & Forecasting
- Communications
  - Education & Outreach
  - Notification Plans
  - Community Resource Centers
- Medical Baseline / Access Functional Needs
- Customer Resources
- PSPS Survey Results
- Fast Trip



# PacifiCorp's Service Territory (refresher)

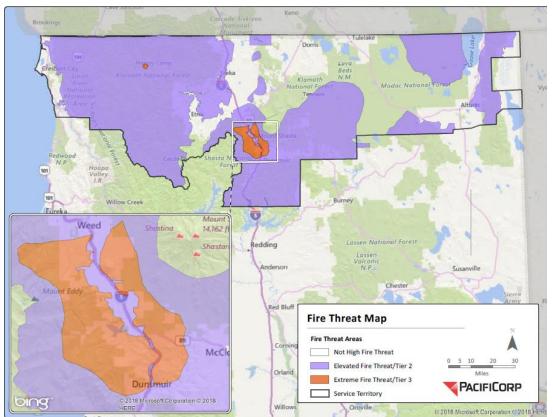
#### **General Stats**

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** 

#### **Programmatic Shifts**

- Increased Frequency of **Asset Inspections**
- **Accelerated Condition** Correction
- **Enhanced Vegetation** Management



## **Extreme Risk**

Extreme Risk of Wildfire

Approximately 250 miles or 10% of all overhead distribution lines are planned for prioritized system hardening

#### **Prioritized System** Hardening

- Covered Conductor
- Advanced Protection and Control
- **Expulsion Fuse** Replacements

# PSPS History & Risk





PSPS History ————————————————————————————————————							
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	

DCDC III 4

- GACC NISK						
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		

GACC Dick

Continue using PSPS as a tool and measure of last resort

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

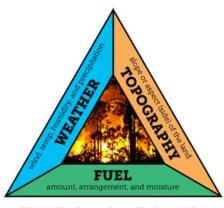
- ☐ Real Time Monitoring of Local Conditions
- ☐ Weather Forecasting & Risk
- ☐ Dynamic Input from Public Safety Partners

#### Mitigating Impacts of PSPS with:

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

#### 2022 Accomplishment / Updated Methodology

- ☐ WFA-E Consequence Modeling
- ☐ Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings (RFW)
- WRF Forecasts
- ☐ Evaporation Demand Drought Index (EDDI)
- ☐ Fuels Conditions (Grasses, Live Fuels, & Dead Fuels)
- ☐ Current or Recent Wildfire Activity
- ☐ Hot-Dry-Windy Index (HDWI)
- ☐ Vapor Pressure Deficit (1-month avg)
- ☐ FHCA Location (Y/N)

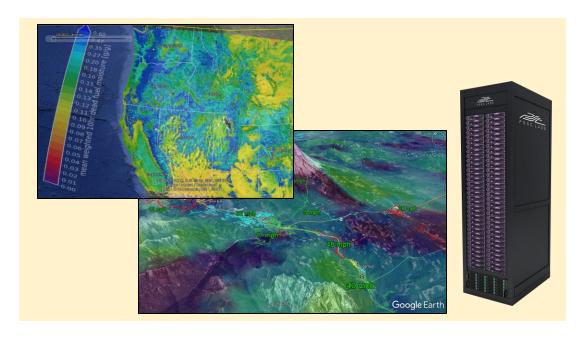


Fire Behavior Triangle

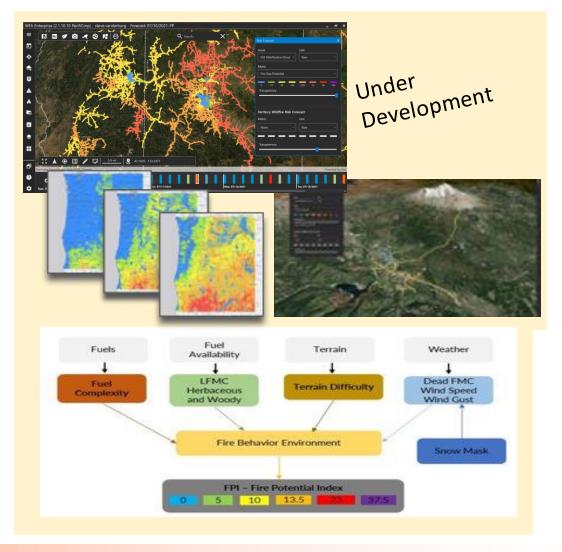
## Situational Awareness

## **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

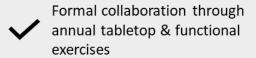




## **Education & Outreach**

- ✓ Tabletop exercises with Public Safety Partners
  - ✓ Completed tabletop in Siskiyou County on April 28, 2022.
  - ✓ Completed functional exercise in Siskiyou County on May 26, 2022.
- ✓ Wildfire safety and preparedness campaign included social media, radio, bill inserts and other online media (such as Spotify)
- ✓ Updated brochures, flyers and other collateral
- ✓ Updates to improve awareness of customer support programs
- √ Spanish PSPS Website
- ✓ New 2022 Webinar

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE PARTNERS



Engage and maintain local situational awareness through county emergency manager(s)

Deploy personnel to the local EOC as needed to coordinate responsibilities and distribute information

Situational reporting with county emergency managers

Bring on additional PacifiCorp personnel to support more frequent coordination



#### **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Maintain lists within our new Public Safety Partner Portal (launched June 1st, 2022)

Monthly updates and download capability by public safety partners

Outreach to update primary and secondary points of contact for facilities & collect backup genera tion capabilities

Facilities can request to be added to our list online from our critical facilities page

Validation of our critical infrastructure with the respective county or tribal emergency managers



WILDFIRE SAFETY

#### TRIBAL PARTNERS

Twice-monthly meetings with the Karuk Tribe

Frequent collaboration and coordination with the Karuk Tribal emergency manager

Coordinate and provide information to tribal communities via county emergency managers

Align messaging strategies between tribal public information and corporate communications

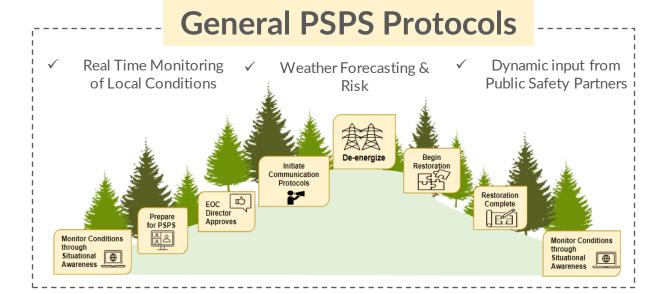
Bring on additional PacifiCorppersonnel to support more frequent coordination

## **Notification Plans**

- Once the decision is made to implement a PSPS,
   Notification Protocols are initiated
- Pending any changes to dynamic weather factors and risk, notifications protocols generally include:

Notification Protocols				
48-72 hours prior	De-energization warning to Public Safety Partners			
24-48 hours prior	De-energization warning			
1-4 hours prior	De-energization imminent			
Event begins	De-energization begins			
Re-energization begins	Re-energization begins			
Re-energization completed	Re-energization completed			
Cancellation of event	De-energization event canceled			

- During a PSPS event, notifications to medical baseline and AFN populations are managed separately from general notifications
- Pacific Power performs positive or affirmative communications using various methods:
  - □ Personal Calls □ Text Messages □ Home Visit



## **2022 Enhancements**

- ☐ Strengthen relationships with CBOs

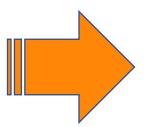
Example: Initiated contact with Redwood Coast Resource Centers to better understand how to identify and serve AFN populations

# **Community Resource Centers**

## **Existing Services**

- ✓ Shelter from environment
- ✓ Air conditioning
- ✓ Potable water
- ✓ Seating and tables
- ✓ Restroom facilities
- ✓ Refrigeration for medicine and/or 
  ✓ Charging stations baby needs
- ✓ Interior and area lighting
- ✓ On-site security

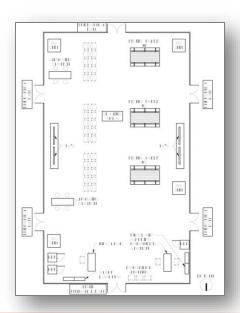
- ✓ Communications capability such as Wi-fi access, Sat Phone, Radio, Cellular phone etc.
- √ Televisions
- ✓ On-site medical support (EMT-A at a minimum, Paramedic preferred)



## Enhanced in 2022

- ✓ Air Purifiers
- ✓ Air Quality Monitors
- ✓ Ice
- ✓ Non-perishable snacks
- ✓ Small Crates for Pets
- ✓ Portable ADA Ramp







# 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 pacificpower.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.



## **2022 Improvements**

- Since February 2022, there has been **an increase of 314** total AFN customers **(67 percent)**
- 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 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
- All medical baseline customers are identified as AFN customers

## **2022 AFN Customer Counts**

Medical Baseline AFN Non-Medical Baseline AFN

Total

145

*636* 

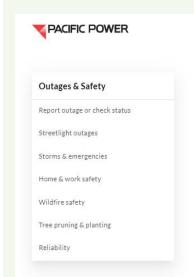
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# Backup Generation and Portable Battery Programs

## **NEW Website and Reference Material**

OUTAGES & SAFETY

SAVINGS & ENERGY CHOICES



## 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 electronic devices.

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**

- Rebate offered on the purchase of a portable generator or portable power station to customers who:
  - Reside in Tier 2 or Tier 3 area
  - Additional rebate to Access and Functional Needs (AFN) customers



## **Free Portable Battery Program**

Implemented in 2021 to provide back-up batteries – at no cost – to medical baseline customers

#### Program Includes:

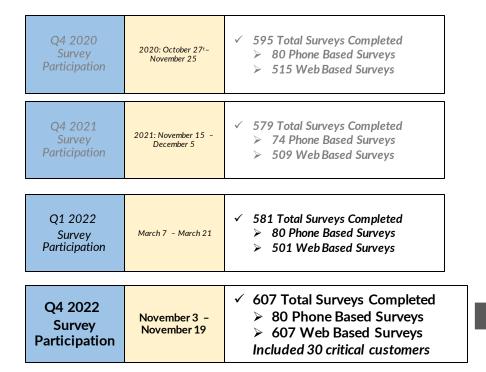
- Technical assessment of needs
- Free-to-the customer portable batteries
- Training
- Customer Support

#### 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



# **Customer Survey Results**





#### **Objectives**

- Measure awareness of Pacific Power messages related to wildfire preparedness
- Identify recall of specific message topics
- Identify recall of message channels
- Measure recall and understanding of Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS
- Evaluate sources customers are most likely to turn to for information about PSPS
- **Evaluate PSPS experience**
- Explore actions taken by customers to prepare for wildfire season
- Measure awareness of Pacific Power's efforts to reduce the risk of wildfires

#### **Key Findings**

- ✓ Most commonly recalled channels were email, social media and TV news
- ✓ The Pacific Power website remains rated as the most useful and clear source
- ✓ 67% reported to be aware of wildfire safety communications, up from 58%
- ✓ 56% recall seeing, hearing, or reading the phrase "Public Safety Power Shutoff of PSPS", up from 52%
- ✓ 23% experienced a PSPS in the past year
- ✓ Among those reporting that they rely on electricity for medical needs, 1/4 are aware of additional notices

#### Recommendations

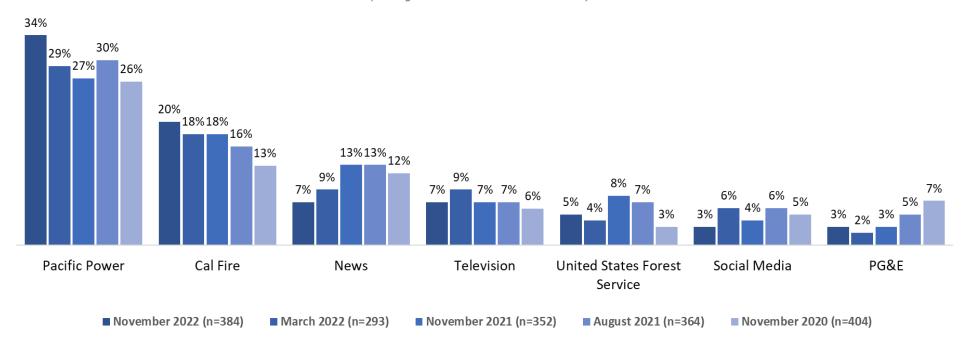
- ✓ Continue utilizing TV news and social media to reach customers; evaluate cadence, as off-season awareness trends lower than post-season.
- ✓ Focus media and social media communications on driving customers to the website, as well as leveraging bill inserts to communicate quick highly important information, and to refer customers to the website for more detail.
- ✓ Focus communications on PSPS, how to be prepared and respond to an outage (including an emergency kit and readiness plan), and the steps Pacific Power is taking.
- ✓ Evaluate the current off-season messaging plan.
  - \* Awareness of PSPS is down in March 2022 and mirrors May 2020, which awareness is much higher in previous August and November waves.
  - Consider off-season messaging around steps Pacific Power is taking to mitigate risk and help customers prepare.

# Customer Survey – Communication Sources

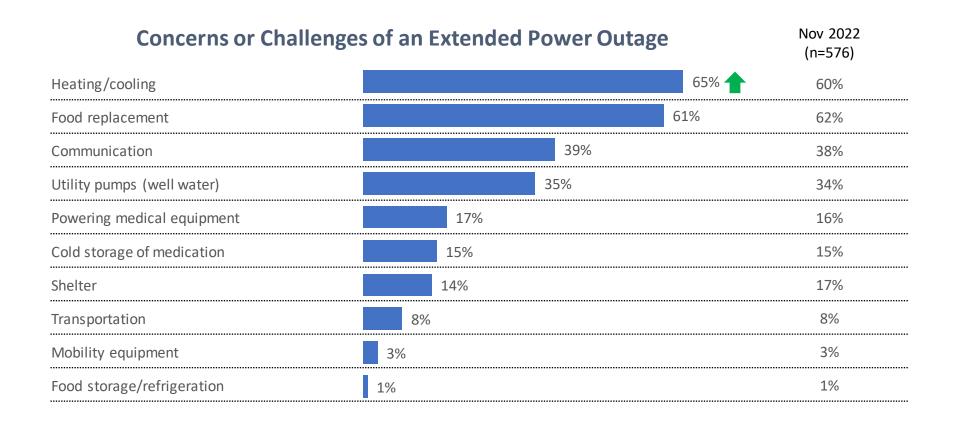
Pacific Power remains the most mentioned source of communication about wildfire preparedness (34%), statistically consistent with March 2022 (29%)

#### **Wildfire Preparedness Communications Sources**

(among those who recall communication)



# **Extended Outage Concerns**



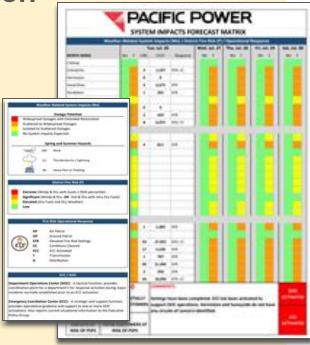


# Elevated Fire Risk (EFR) Settings

- 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



## **Outreach & Awareness**

Press Release, July 24, 2022

PORTLAND – With daily high temperatures forecast to near or above the 100-degree mark next week across parts of the Pacific Northwest, Pacific Power is prepared to face higher demands on the grid from both record temperatures and increased customer need.

"We've taken steps for grid hardening, in particular since last summer, to prevent overloading at the substation level and on the distribution system," said Erik Brookhouse, vice president of system operation for Pacific Power. "We are confident about our network's readiness for this summer."

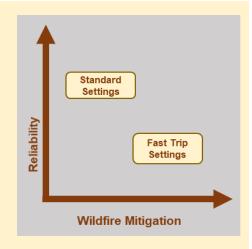
Wildfire conditions have elevated too and Pacific Power has taken additional safety precautions in high risk areas to reduce the risk of wildfire. Among other measures, the company is conducting additional patrols of power lines and temporarily modifying targeted system settings to be more sensitive.

- · Operate the clothes dryer and dishwasher at night.
- If you have air conditioning, set it to maintain an interior temperature of 78 degrees, higher when you are away from home.

More electric energy information is available on Pacific Power's website at: www.pacificpower.net.

## **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



# Thank You!

