

*The following information has been prepared in response to questions from Napa County residents regarding wildfire hazard tree removals. For any additional questions or requests for information, customers are encouraged to call us at 1-800-743-5000 or email [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com).*

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Why are wildfire hazard tree removals being performed on customer property?**

- PG&E is working safely and as quickly as possible to perform damage assessments and make repairs to our electric equipment and facilities impacted by the recent wildfires.
- This is done in coordination with CAL FIRE and other agencies responding to the wildfires.
- As part of this restoration work, PG&E contract crews conduct inspections to identify and address hazardous trees that may have been damaged by the fire, where it's safe to do so.
- These trees must be removed for crews to access equipment, assess damage and restore power.
- It is important to note, CAL FIRE and other agencies and utilities also remove hazardous trees from both private and public property for public safety and to repair or protect other public-serving facilities.

### **Why are hazard tree removals and other vegetation work being performed on customer property even if they are not damaged by the fire and are not near PG&E's electric lines?**

- We are also removing trees that are hazardous and may appear to be far away from electric lines, but are still tall enough to potentially strike the lines.
- Some of these trees may look healthy on the outside but have structural concerns or a compromised root structure due to the fire damage that would qualify the tree as a hazard.

### **Is PG&E communicating with customers about this work?**

- We make best efforts to communicate with customers about vegetation work via phone calls, door knocks and printed collateral—like a door-hanger—whenever possible.
- During wildfire response efforts, we are making every effort to reach private property owners using these methods.
- That said, in emergency response situations, advance notifications are not always possible because of the prompt inspection and vegetation work needed.
- In those cases, we will contact customers after completion to discuss the work performed.
- We are making best efforts to complete the Glass Fire Vegetation Management effort in the first quarter of 2021.

### **What are the differences between the P1, P2 and NC markings on trees?**

- A marking of "P1" indicates that the tree presents an imminent risk, either to nearby power lines or to the work area being used to repair lines.
- A marking of "P2" indicates that the tree is damaged or diseased and could fall into nearby power lines, but does not pose an imminent risk.
- A marking of "NC" indicates that the tree will need to be removed to re-construct our facilities.

### **Can PG&E cut trees to maintain monetary value for customers?**

- Our crews conduct tree work to allow for merchantable timber whenever possible.
- However, our primary concern is to remove trees safely; and in some cases, trees may need to be pieced down for safety and to ensure there is no property damage.

*Some of the measures included in this document are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.*

**Is PG&E required to conduct this work?**

- Yes. CPUC General Order 95, Rule 35 and California Public Resources Code Section 4293 require PG&E, as owner of the electric line, to maintain a minimum clearance from its lines to vegetation at all times.
- Additionally, these regulations require PG&E to abate the hazards associated with dead trees, old decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened by decay or disease and trees or portions thereof that are leaning toward the line which may contact the line from the side or may fall on the line.

**Is PG&E removing mitigated wildfire vegetation from customer property? If not, why?**

- When tree work is complete, we chip wood less than four inches in diameter and spread the chips on-site where possible.
- In remote areas, tree crews lop and scatter wood debris in accordance with CAL FIRE Forest Practice Rules. This is done to avoid excessive vegetation build-up.
- Wood on private property from our vegetation management work legally belongs to the landowner, as trees are considered assets and property.
- If property owners do not want to keep the wood, removal options can be provided by local service organizations, fire safe councils and/or green waste facilities.
- We are responding to wildfires throughout our service territory as an emergency response partner outside of our normal Vegetation Management Program work. The emergency response partnership does not entail wood management.
- As a regulated utility, PG&E must be a steward of our customers and adhere to state law and forest practice guidelines regarding our work on private property.

**Is PG&E providing direction or information to customers directing them to resources to remove mitigated wildfire vegetation from their property?**

- PG&E Public Safety Specialists are communicating with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) to determine if property owners recently impacted by the LNU and Glass Fires may qualify for FEMA assistance for wood removal.
- We are working with local and state government agencies to identify the proper waste stream and cleanup process for each community.
- Additionally, we will continue to communicate and work with CAL FIRE, County OES and other agencies to provide information that may support wood removal.

**How is PG&E addressing trees left in the County right-of way (ROW)?**

- PG&E is working to ensure that wood is not left in any County ROW. Contractors conducting work in ROWs are given explicit instructions to remove the wood.