SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®

2022 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Energy for What's Ahead®

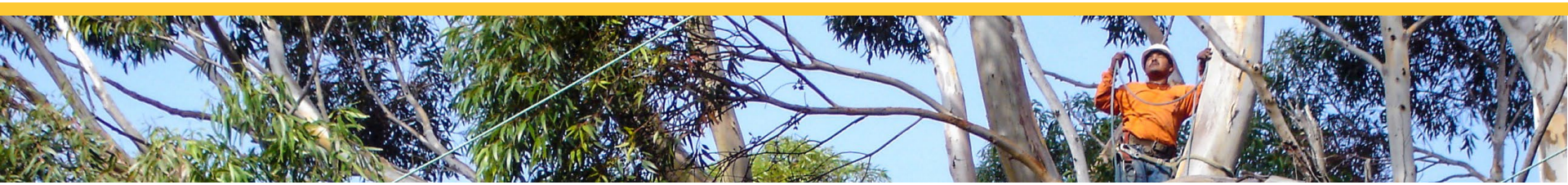
Agenda

Presenter: Chuck Dykes, Vegetation Management

Topics

1. Vegetation Management Overview
2. Vegetation Management Strategy
3. Vegetation Management Inspections
4. 2022 Key Program Changes

Vegetation Management Overview



Overview

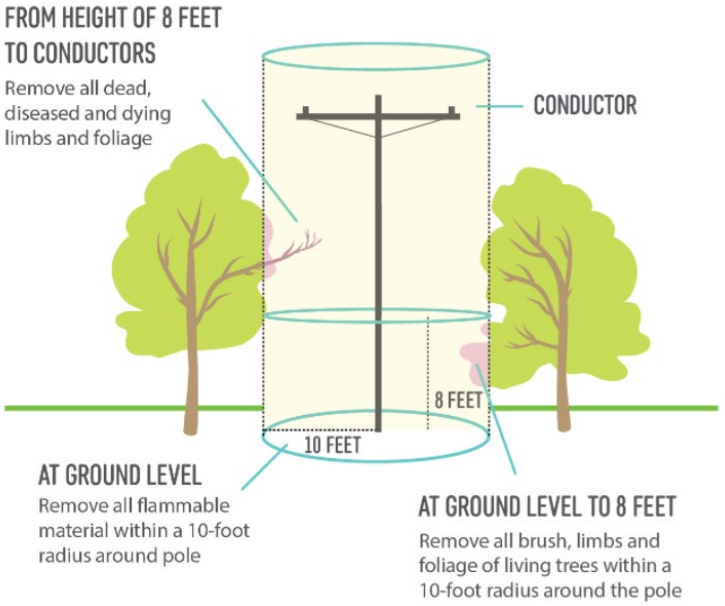
- Prevent risks to public safety and system reliability by managing vegetation in proximity to electric facilities
- Inspect and mitigate trees in HFRA for routine line clearing and expanded clearances
- Specific vegetation wildfire mitigation activities performed in HFRA include:
    - Hazard Tree Management Program (HTMP) to inspect 330 circuits and assess any trees with strike potential along those circuits
    - Dead and Dying Tree Removal Program to inspect 900 unique circuits and prescribe mitigation for dead and dying trees with strike potential along those circuits
    - Perform expanded pole brushing on 78,700 to 170,000 Distribution poles

Vegetation Management Strategy

- Focus on enhancing risk-based prioritization to evolve VM program strategy and planning
- Reduce or eliminate risk of vegetation-to-conductor contact through traditional and alternative long-term sustainable practices
  - Continue work towards achieving enhanced clearances for full annual cycle maintenance
  - Remove trees that cannot maintain clearance for a full annual cycle
  - Remove trees that are “fall-in” and "blow-in" risks (Hazard Tree Management Program and Dead and Dying Tree Program)
  - Conduct supplemental inspections in areas of elevated risk
  - Perform independent risk-informed quality control inspections to validate program objectives are being met
- Improve customer and community engagement including updates to communications for planned work, increased local agency discussions, and surveying to obtain customer feedback
- Invest in an integrated software platform that will help streamline scheduling and processing of work, improve data management, and facilitate advanced analytics

Vegetation Management Inspections

- **Routine Line Clearing** inspects for vegetation encroachments to identify the clearance needed to mitigate potential ignition risks.
    - Annual inspection schedule; additional supplemental patrols as appropriate.
- **Pole Brushing** inspects and removes vegetation at the base of distribution poles to reduce the probability of ignition and/or fire spread due to a spark or contact from failed equipment.
- **Hazard Tree Management** entails detailed assessment of trees outside utility rights-of-way, but still within the Utility Strike Zone. Trees that present safety or reliability risks are mitigated.



- The **Dead and Dying Tree Program** inspects and removes dead, dying, or diseased trees affected by drought conditions and/or insect infestation.
- **LiDAR** is the preferred inspection methodology for determining vegetation encroachments caused by sag and sway/line dynamics on bulk transmission lines.
    - The feasibility of performing additional LiDAR inspections on distribution is being evaluated.

2022 Key Program Changes

Key Program Changes
(2021 vs. 2022)

- In 2022, **Tree Risk Index (TRI)** will be used to inform planning, scheduling, and oversight activities to prioritize highest risk areas.
    - 2022 Vegetation Program Applications include: Hazard Tree Mitigation, Quality Control, and Line Clearing Inspections
- Consolidating vegetation programs into a single digital tool to streamline work management – will lead to efficiencies and better portfolio visibility
- Recalibrated scope of pole brushing program using advanced risk analysis that considers fire propagation potential and other variables
- **Enhanced Supplemental Patrols** – Expanded use of LiDAR acquisition in Distribution for patrols and enhanced fire season readiness (e.g., AOCs and Canyon Patrols)
    - Evaluation of general remote sensing capabilities (e.g., LiDAR and satellite imagery) for targeted routine inspection work
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)** – the practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plant communities that will resist invasion by tall growing tree species using appropriate, environmentally-sound, and cost-effective control methods
    - Currently working on pilots for tree growth regulator, planting, grazing, and post-fire restoration projects

Thank You