PG&E’s most important responsibility is the safety of the customers and communities we are privileged to serve.

Given the growing threat of wildfire, PG&E is evolving its wildfire prevention efforts for the safety of our customers and communities.

Nearly one-third of the electric lines that provide PG&E customers with power are in High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) areas, as designated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including the Los Gatos area. California, Oregon and Washington, along with several other western states, continue to experience an increase in wildfire risk and a longer wildfire season.

To help further reduce the wildfire risk, we are implementing several key safety enhancements for the duration of wildfire season, including:

o Responding with PG&E personnel to all electric outages in High Fire-Threat Districts(HFTDs) within 60 minutes.

o Implementing a fast trip setting, that will automatically turn off power faster if an object makes contact with an energized line or there is an issue with the equipment, for circuits in HFTDs. We are starting with circuits in locations that are difficult to access and at higher risk for a catastrophic wildfire. This includes the Los Gatos area.

o Addressing high-priority vegetation issues that may pose a safety risk and doing an aerial safety patrol on these circuits.

 These efforts are an extreme measure in response to the equally extreme drought and wildfire conditions present in our state, even during non-Red Flag Warning conditions.

 Our additional safety enhancements may result in more frequent, longer-duration power outages as an affected line must be thoroughly patrolled before power can be restored, but these efforts are necessary given the current climate. We will not take chances with customer safety as we combat these hazardous conditions.

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**Fast Trip Setting Program Detail**

 Given the continued and growing threat of wildfire, PG&E is evolving its wildfire prevention efforts for the safety of our customers and communities.

 This includes making enhanced adjustments to our equipment located in high fire-risk areas to increasethe sensitivity of our fault-sensing devices.

 To help protect customers during this hot and dry season, we have updated the sensitivity of our equipment to automatically turn off power faster if the system detects a problem.

 These fast trip settings are intended to increase the speed at which safety devices turn off power in response to faults that could result in fire ignitions.

 This setting will be used when wildfire potential is the greatest, most often in late summer and fall.

 By updating the safety protection settings on circuit breakers, line reclosers and similar equipment, we reduce the potential for our equipment to start a wildfire.

 We are making this change in areas we serve where, if an ignition occurred, there is a higher probability that a large fire could result, driven by local topography, terrain and fuels, even when there may be little or no wind. This change was implemented in the Los Gatos area in late July.

 PG&E has identified approximately 10,000 circuit miles out of 25,000 total distribution circuit miles in HFTD areas to receive this enhanced safety measure, based on wildfire risk.

 These locations have been identified and validated by our Public Safety Specialist team, many of whom have retired from CAL FIRE or the US Forest Service and have an extensive background in wildfire response and prevention.

 This effort will help reduce wildfire risk and is important due to the extreme drought and wildfire conditions present in our state, even during non-Red Flag Warning conditions.

 While fast trip settings make our electric system safer for our customers, they may also result in more frequent, longer-duration customer outages as deployed crews must patrol the entire circuit to ensure there is no damage or hazards present – and perform any necessary repairs – prior to restoring power. We recognize that being without power is a hardship for customers, but it is necessary for safety and to help prevent wildfires.

 PG&E crews will need to patrol the entirety of the circuit – from where the fault occurred to the end of the line – to ensure no issues exist that could spark an ignition.

 The patrols will be conducted either on the ground or in the air. Crews will restore customers in stages, or steps, as individual portions of the circuit are deemed safe and ready for re-energization. Ground patrols may need to be conducted on foot in very steep and difficult terrain with limited access.

 In some cases, you may see helicopters performing aerial patrols. Please note: if you have power lines on your property, we may need access in order to restore power.

We apologize to our customers who experience an increased number and/or duration of outages as a result of these additional safety measures. We know that it is a burden to be without power. That is why we are working hard to:

o Notify customers that an outage has occurred

o Reduce patrol times to restore power quickly

o Continue to adjust device sensitivity to minimize the size and duration of outages

 Additionally, PG&E crews are working to conduct patrols safely but more efficiently.