

# OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY (Energy Safety)

**Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee**

March 17, 2026



# Legislative History & Mandate

Created by Assembly Bill 1054 (2019) and Assembly Bill 111 (2019) in response to the tragic fires of 2017 and 2018.

- **Wildfire Safety Division** established January 2020
- **Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety** established July 2021
- **Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board** transferred January 2022  
Transferred through Senate Bill 856 (2020).

## High-level Regulatory Scope

- 1) Oversee and enforce electrical corporation (ECs) **compliance with wildfire safety** rules and regulations. (Pub. Util. Code, §§ 8385 et seq.)
- 2) Set “**locate & mark**” **safety standards**, coordinate **education** programs, and **investigate excavation damage** of underground facilities due to “**dig-ins**”. (Gov. Code, §§ 4216 et seq.)

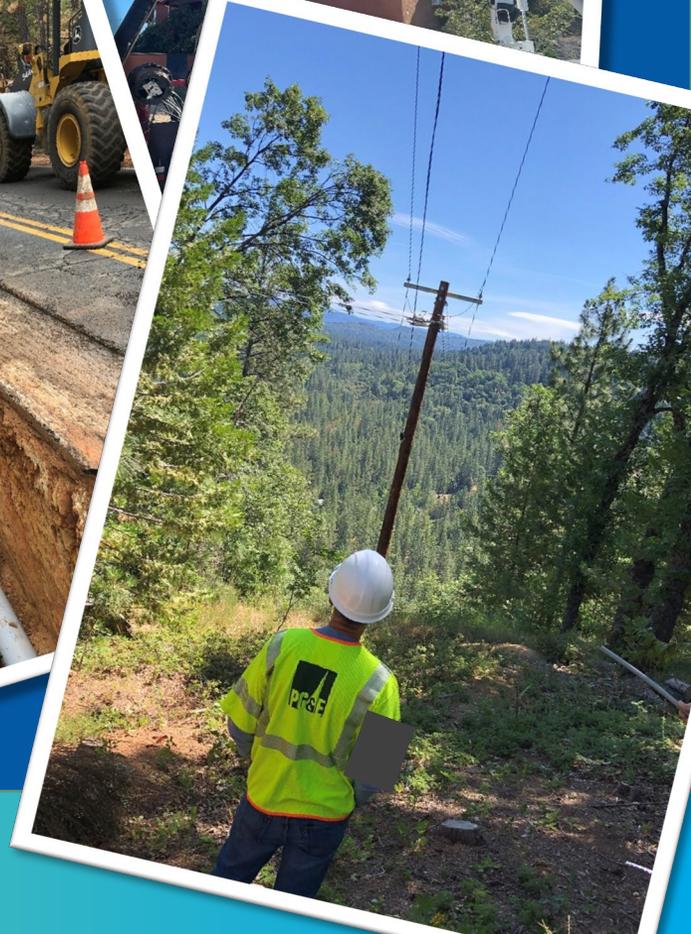


# Innovative Regulatory Framework

Legislature created framework to reduce utility-ignited wildfires through investments in electrical grid resiliency and mandated utility safety reforms.

## Key Elements

- Separated **wildfire safety oversight** from ratemaking
- 3-year **Wildfire Mitigation Plan** w/ 23 specific content requirements
- Created a **10-year Undergrounding Plan** – SB 884 (McGuire)
- Created a **Wildfire Safety Advisory Board** of technical experts to advise the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
- Created bi-annual **Safety Culture Assessments**
- Created a voluntary **Certification** w/ seven conditions, which encourage electrical corporations to invest in safety, including requiring safety metrics in executive incentive compensation.



# FORWARD-LOOKING ACCOUNTABILITY

Energy Safety must issue s Pub. Util. Code 8389 Certificate to an Electrical Corporation if it can demonstrate that it:

- 1) Has an approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- 2) Is in good standing, as satisfied by the EC agreeing to implement the findings of Energy Safety's and CPUC's safety culture assessments
- 3) Has a Safety Committee of its Board of Directors composed of members with safety experience
- 4) Has an Executive Compensation structured to promote safety and financial stability
- 5) Provides Board of Directors-level reporting of safety issues to CPUC and Energy Safety
- 6) Is implementing its Wildfire Mitigation Plan

# 2026-28 WMP Areas for Continued Improvement

**Energy Safety has issued 60+ ACIs requiring improvement, including the following:**

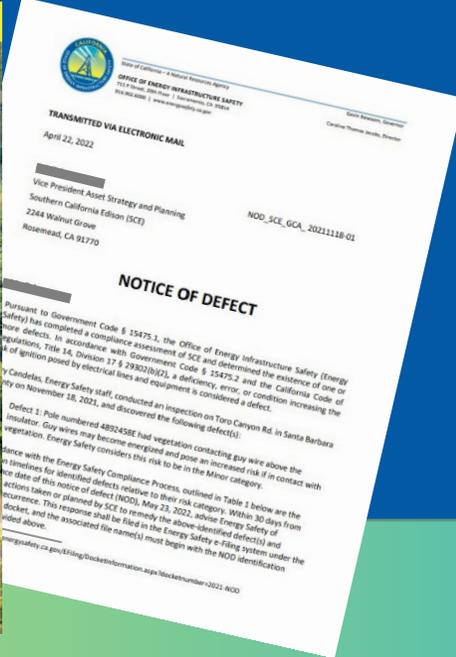
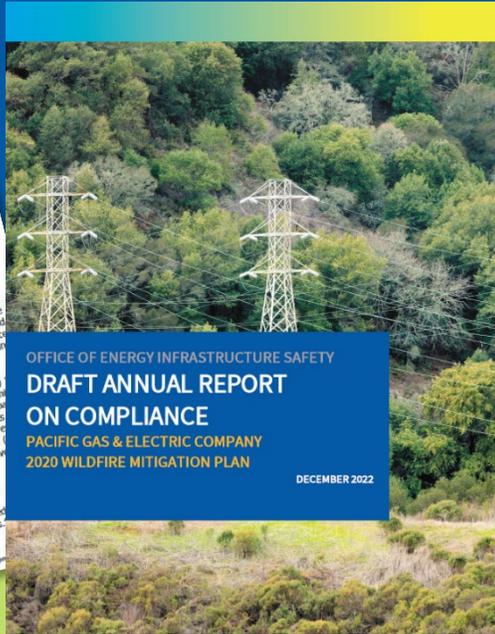
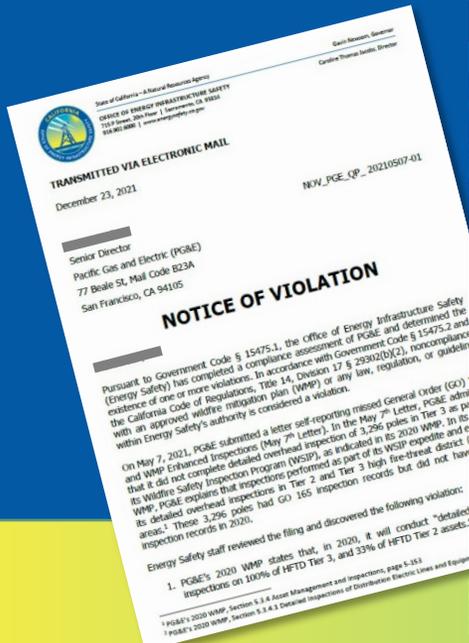
- Benchmarking of ground vs drone inspections
- Splice failure tracking
- Transition to inspections via infrared technology
- Transmission switch failure and testing study
- Addressing vegetation management “constraints”
- Implementing enhanced vegetation clearances (all utilities)
- Mitigation effectiveness study (all utilities)
- Assessment of transmission line induction risk (all utilities)



# WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN FIELD REVIEW

## Inspections, Audits, and Investigations (2025)

- Inspected more than 5,500 asset locations
- Inspected more than 30,000 trees
- Issued more than 1,000 Notices of Violation/Non-performance and Wildfire Safety Concerns



# How Electrical Corporations Have Changed...

**It has changed the way California electrical corporations build, operate, and maintain the grid.**

- Developed sophisticated Wildfire Risk Models.
- Reorganized & created new business units.
- Established new workforce credential and training requirements.
- Reoriented operations based on risk prioritization.
- Built new IT systems to manage collection, analysis, and maintenance of critical data.
- Improved quality assurance and quality control.
- Initiated cultures of continuous improvement.

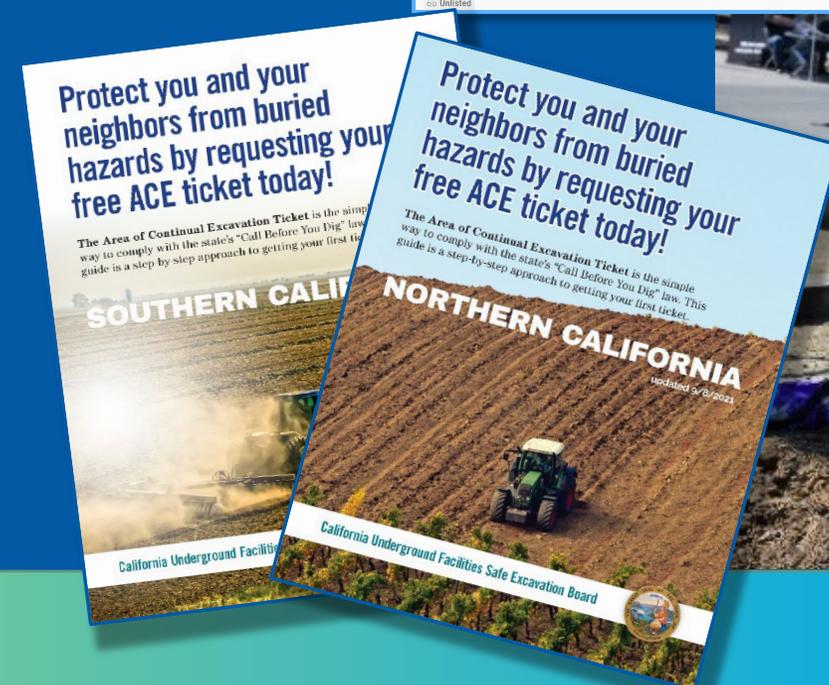
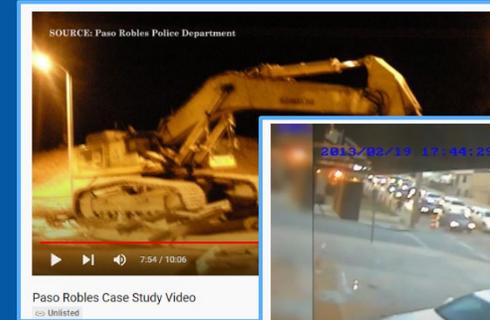


# Underground Safety Board



## Nine-Member Board of Experts in Contract Excavation, Utility Management and Locating, and Agricultural Operations

- Issue Notices of Probable Violation
- Developed an education course for Dig Safe Law violators
- Partner with agricultural community to promote farmer “call before you dig” participation
- Developed safety regulations for power tool use & operator/excavator communication
- Developing standards for abandoned line management, identifying utility locations, and planning and design of excavation work







**DATA DRIVEN  
FORWARD-THINKING  
INNOVATIVE  
SAFETY FOCUSED**

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**OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY**

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