

CPUC: Oversight of Electric Utility Wildfire Preparedness and Response

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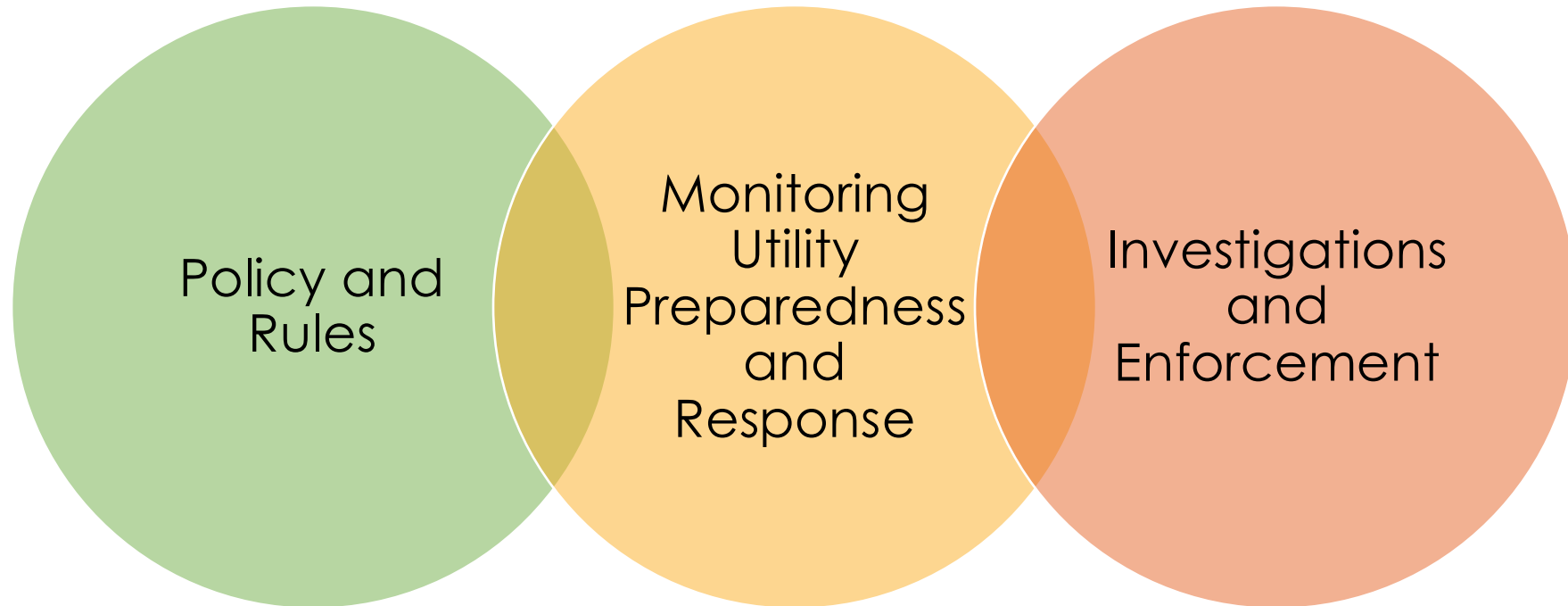
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California Public
Utilities Commission

CPUC: Oversight of Wildfire Preparedness and Response



CPUC 2024 Annual Report: www.cpuc.ca.gov/25reports

Elements of Risk Mitigation

1. **Wildfire Mitigation Plans** - IOUs demonstrate how they are constructing, maintaining, and operating electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Monitored in coordination with the Office of Energy & Infrastructure Safety (OEIS). (Pub. Util. Code § 8385-8389)
2. **Safely Executing Public Safety Power Shutoffs** – Requirements for safely, temporarily turning off power to specific areas as a measure of last resort to mitigate wildfire risk. (e.g., Pub. Util. Code § 451)
3. **Wildfire Investigation and Enforcement** - Investigate whether utilities have violated CPUC-jurisdictional rules and take appropriate enforcement action. (e.g., Pub. Util. Code 451)

CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER BE READY TO GO RED FLAG WARNING WWW.READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG



**2023-2025
WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN**

Docket: 2023 to 2025 Electrical Corporation Wildfire Mitigation Plans Docket#: 2023-2025-WMPs

October 26, 2023

DANGER

HIGH FIRE DANGER

DESTRUCTIVE WINDSTORM WITH LOW HUMIDITY

LOS ANGELES & VENTURA COUNTIES: 12 PM TUE TO 4 PM WED

RDINO, VERSIDE, O COUNTIES: 6 PM THUR

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

During weather conditions that increase the risk of utility-caused wildfires, IOUs can make operational decisions to safely execute a **Public Safety Power Shutoff** (PSPS). The CPUC monitors utilities' PSPS preparedness and operations. CPUC roles:

- **PSPS Incident Monitoring** – Required to provide reports to the CPUC during the PSPS event and after a PSPS event.
- **Planning** – Maintain a PSPS plan developed in coordination with local, state, and community-based organizations that outlines communication and support to affected customers.
- **Access and Functional Needs Planning** – Maintain an Access and Functional Needs (AFN) plan and work with state leadership and local, state, and community-based organizations to develop and enhance operations and resources.



Compliance Monitoring: Public Safety Power Shutoffs

- **PSPS Incident Monitoring** – IOUs must provide reports to the CPUC during and after the PSPS event.
 - CPUC staff conducts real time compliance monitoring of IOUs' PSPS activities in relation to CPUC PSPS Guidelines and Requirements
 - Daily contact/communications with IOUs
 - Participates in daily State Executive Briefings led by Cal OES
 - Observes IOUs' internal staff meetings/Visit electric utility emergency operations centers

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
PSPS Events With De-Energization	21	15	3	7	23	7
Total Customers De-Energized	971,440	269,104	15,784	39,037	244,033	515,242
Avg Customers De-Energized per Event	46,259	17,940	5,261	5,576	10,610	73,606

* Through January 2025

Investigations and Enforcement: PSPS Execution

CPUC oversight of PSPS protocols and events:

- IOUs must file Post-Event, Quarterly, and Annual Reports related to PSPS events and preparedness activities to meet PSPS regulatory requirements.
- All PSPS events are reviewed and investigated by the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division.
- The CPUC exercises authority to fine IOUs for violation of PSPS requirements. Recent fines include:
 - \$106 million for violations during 2019 PSPS events
 - \$19 million for violations during 2020 PSPS events
 - \$4.1 million for violations during 2021 PSPS events
 - Fines are paid by shareholders, including for shareholder-funded safety initiatives
- In 2023, the CPUC established a complementary PSPS citation program that allows the CPUC to swiftly enforce lower-level PSPS violations to diminish systemic violations by electric utilities.



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