CA Assembly Utilities Committee Hearing

Truckee Donner Public Utility District

October 20, 2026



Welcome!

A Quick Overview

TRUCKEE DONNER
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT





TDPUD Wildfire Mitigation, Risk Reduction, and Community Safety

- About TDPUD
- TDPUD WMP & Risk Reduction Programs
- CloudFire Weather & Wildfire Risk Modeling
- Addressing Wildfire Risk Community/Region Wide
- Challenges & Opportunities

About Truckee Donner Public Utility District

- **Established in 1927**
- **Electric and Water Utility**
  - Serving greater Truckee area
- **~16,000 customers, ~88 % residential**
- **Locally elected Board of Directors**
  - Not-for-profit, locally governed, and community owned
  - Cost-of-service based
- **Mountainous Environment (6,000-8,500')**
  - Severe winter storms and high wildfire threat



Wildfire Mitigation Plan & Risk Reduction

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Wildfire Mitigation Plans:

- Address community safety
- Identify projects and programs
- Prioritize resources and projects
- Track metrics and performance
- Provide transparency
- Engage customers and community



Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

PREVENTION

Reduce the likelihood of wildfire ignition and impact

Vegetation Management
Proactive trimming and clearance

Inspections and Patrols
Routine inspections and field patrols

System Hardening
Stronger infrastructure to withstand hazards

DETECTION

Identify issues early and support informed decisions

Situational Awareness – Line Sensors
Real-time line data for early risk awareness

Industry Expert Support
Leverage expert analysis and risk intelligence

PROTECTION

Take action to reduce risk and protect communities and critical infrastructure

Non-Reclose Settings
Prevent automatic re-energization to reduce ignition risk

Fast Trip Settings (APSS)
Rapidly clear faults to minimize risk

Preemptive Power Shutoff (PPS)
Last resort action to reduce risk during extreme conditions

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Wildfire Mitigation Plans Details



Early Revisions of the WMP:

- Building a portfolio of wildfire mitigation programs and tools
  - Early focus on the low-hanging fruit
    - Vegetation Management, Expulsion Fuses, and One-Shot for TDPUD
    - Increased Vegetation Management budget from ~$350K in 2018 to ~$2.5M today
- Needed to rely more on others
  - NOAA primarily for real-time weather and forecasts
    - Existing network of weather stations
  - NV Energy & Liberty Utilities for wildfire risk modeling and forecasting

Wildfire Mitigation Plan Details

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Today's WMP - What we did before plus

- Investments in Situational Awareness
  - CloudFire wildfire risk modeling and forecasting
  - GridWare/GridScope real-time overhead line sensing
  - Still relying/collaborating with sister utilities and NOAA
- Investments in Overhead System Hardening
  - Metal poles, fiberglass cross-arms, and covered conductor
- Preemptive Power Shut-Off (PPS) Wildfire Safety Deenergization
  - Subject to NV Energy PSOM or Emergency Deenergization at the transmission level
- Moving Towards Fast-Trip
- Everything is viewed with a lens of risk reduction



Situational Awareness and Risk Reduction

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CloudFire

- Real-time and forecast fire and risk modeling
  - Includes dispatch services and support during high wildfire risk
  - Breaks TDPUD service territory into 40+ discrete areas
    - 4x10 miles
    - 4 Substations, 18 total circuits
- Overall wildfire risk profile for TDPUD helps prioritize location of other wildfire mitigation programs to maximize risk reduction
  - Overhead system hardening
  - GridWare/GridScope
  - Vegetation Management
- Informs TDPUD's Preemptive Power Shutoff (PPS)



Preemptive Power Shutoff (PPS)



The Last Resort of Wildfire Mitigation

Purpose and Scope

- Public safety first
- Defined triggers
- Controlled and coordinated

Key Objectives

- Protect life and property
- Mitigate liability exposure
- Ensure service continuity
- Support emergency response
- Inform and prepare the community

Addressing Wildfire Risk Community/Region Wide

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Need a Holistic Approach to Mitigating Risk and Improving Community Safety

- Must Address Fuels, Defensible Space, and Home/Business Hardening
  - Long-time partnership with Truckee Fire Protection District
  - Community support for local funding (Measure T)
  - TDPUD – Truckee Fire – Private Land Owners collaborative 300+ acre fuels reduction project
- Must Leverage Partnerships and Local Resources
  - Strong partnership with neighboring utilities (Liberty Utilities & NV Energy)
  - NE Energy led effort to share wildfire mitigation efforts, situational awareness, and responses to weather events and/or local fires



Challenges and Opportunities



- **Opportunities to increase collaboration and joint-action**
  - Address all aspects of wildfire
  - How can TDPUD do more?
- **Need to address wildfire mitigation costs and affordability**
  - Primarily funding efforts out of rates
  - Sources of State funds limited
  - Unfunded State mandates and rigid permitting reduce the amount of actual work that a utility can do
  - Can't address electric utility rate affordability without addressing strict liability
- **POU's are demonstrating effective wildfire mitigation, risk reduction, and community safety**
  - Need recognition and support in Sacramento of the fundamental differences between POUs and IOUs
  - The best solutions going forward will be based on local decision making and community-wide efforts

Thank you!

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