



WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS

**WE'RE WORKING HARD EVERY DAY
TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND REDUCE WILDFIRE THREATS
ACROSS OUR SERVICE AREA**

As climate conditions have changed throughout the west, the traditional idea of a fire “season” has evolved into a year-long battle against larger, stronger and faster wildfires. As part of our commitment to regional safety, Xcel Energy has developed a comprehensive fire risk mitigation program designed to help protect lives, homes and property from the threat of wildfire. In doing so, we are helping to create a sustainable future for Coloradans who rely on us to power their lives every day.

Safety is our priority

We recognize that wildfires pose a significant threat to our customers, communities and state as a whole—and we are proactively taking steps to minimize ignition risks associated with operating our system.

Our cross-functional Wildfire Mitigation Team works together to:

- Accelerate inspections in identified Wildfire Risk Zones—and conduct new and enhanced inspections on equipment and poles—to further identify and address potential safety concerns.
- Replace equipment and poles that pose an increased risk and explore use of new technologies.
- Analyze the strength and ability of transmission and distribution structures to withstand higher than normal windspeeds.
- Conduct enhanced vegetation management in the areas around structures, corridors and equipment.
- Improve protocols and fire-safe work practices.
- Work directly with communities, first responders and other stakeholders to inform, educate, gather and incorporate feedback for our programs.

“In providing power to our customers, that power needs to be safe, as well as reliable and affordable—and the threats posed by wildfire can negatively impact customers, the community and the company. With that in mind, our plan will continue to evolve as we evaluate new technologies, gain more industry and stakeholder input and support, and complete more inspections and studies to inform our program.”

Sandra Johnson,
Project Director,
Xcel Energy Wildfire Mitigation Program



How we're strengthening our system

We're making strategic investments and improvements to bolster the power grid, build resilience and increase situational awareness to mitigate the risk of asset-caused wildfires. Our team oversees three main bodies of work:

- System hardening initiatives strengthen assets, to reduce the chance of causing ignitions and protect against extreme weather conditions. Risk modeling determines potential methods of failure; then we undertake repair and replace programs that prevent and fix defects. We're also implementing new technologies to help in the mitigation of risks. While it's impossible to eliminate every risk, we continue to maintain and upgrade our system and collaborate with other utilities to protect people and property.
- Operational and situational awareness efforts improve our capability to make critical operational decisions more quickly and effectively. These include specific protocols for periods that are conducive to wildfires, such as "Red Flag Warning" days with high-wind conditions, and monitoring the National Fire Danger Ratings to ensure a better understanding of localized threat conditions—and appropriate actions to deal with those conditions. We're using that information to operate our system in a manner to reduce wildfire risk and allow us to be more effective in responding to fire events when they occur.
- Community and stakeholder outreach plans involve communicating with numerous stakeholders, educating them on the work being done for wildfire mitigation, answering questions about the plan and receiving feedback on what's important to them. Our plan will continue to evolve as we evaluate new technologies, gain more industry and stakeholder input, and complete more inspections and studies to inform our program. Our effort also includes collaboration and benchmarking with Electric Power Research Institute, Edison Electric Institute, national labs and our neighboring utilities to share lessons learned and best practices.






Learn more

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WORK COMPLETED AND PLANNED

	2019-2020	2021+
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually inspected 100% (2,900 miles) of transmission line in Wildfire Risk Zone by ground and aerial patrol for higher-voltage lines (over 200 kV) • Inspected 125,000 distribution wood poles • Inspect high-risk distribution feeders • Identified need for additional reclosers • Initiated risk modeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect 100% (2,900 miles) of transmission line in Wildfire Risk Zone annually • Continue intrusive wood pole ground line inspections and assessments of transmission lines • Investigate additional Transmission Assessments including conductor analysis, climbing and UAS • 10,000+ distribution pole inspections using drones • Enhanced risk and wildfire spread modeling • Continue data collection to analyze pole integrity and necessary vegetation clearance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced 2,300 distribution wood poles in 2019 and 3,700 poles in 2020 • Corrected nearly 300 transmission defects • Upgraded fuses and lightening arrestors • Replaced over 6,000 distribution poles and inspected 2,900 miles of transmission line that posed an increased risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace 4,500 distribution poles in 2021 and nearly 15,500 distribution poles by 2025 • Initiate wire replacements initiatives • Replace fuses with devices that eliminate sparks during fuse operation • Continue to correct transmission defects as they are identified • Continue design work to support the planned rebuild of 195 miles of transmission line in the next 5 years • Rebuild 300 miles of distribution feeder in Wildfire Risk Zones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed a distribution feeder protection study • Initiated substation relay upgrades • Performed a wind strength analysis of transmission and distribution structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance system protection using Advanced Distribution Management System to enhance operational capabilities • Ongoing substation relay upgrades that will allow for earlier fault detection • Implement “Wildfire Mode” on recloser equipment in Wildfire Risk Zones to prevent ignitions • Develop and consider alternative operating protocols in high risk areas to reduce wildfire risk under certain conditions • Improve response protocols and fire safe work practices • Perform a wind strength analysis of distribution structures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed or mitigated hazard trees and vegetation from 20 circuits • Created defensible space around 1,500 distribution poles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue hazard tree removal • Convert right-of-way vegetation types near transmission lines • Create defensible space around 4,000 distribution poles annually
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged with 17 counties and additional community organizations • Hosted two virtual town halls for the public and the first Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Summit for utilities • Filed a second Wildfire Mitigation Plan with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement with multiple counties in wildfire risk areas • Host a virtual town hall for the public (please visit xcelenergywildfireprotection.com to learn more) • Co-host a second Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Summit for utility companies • Received approval of plan from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission