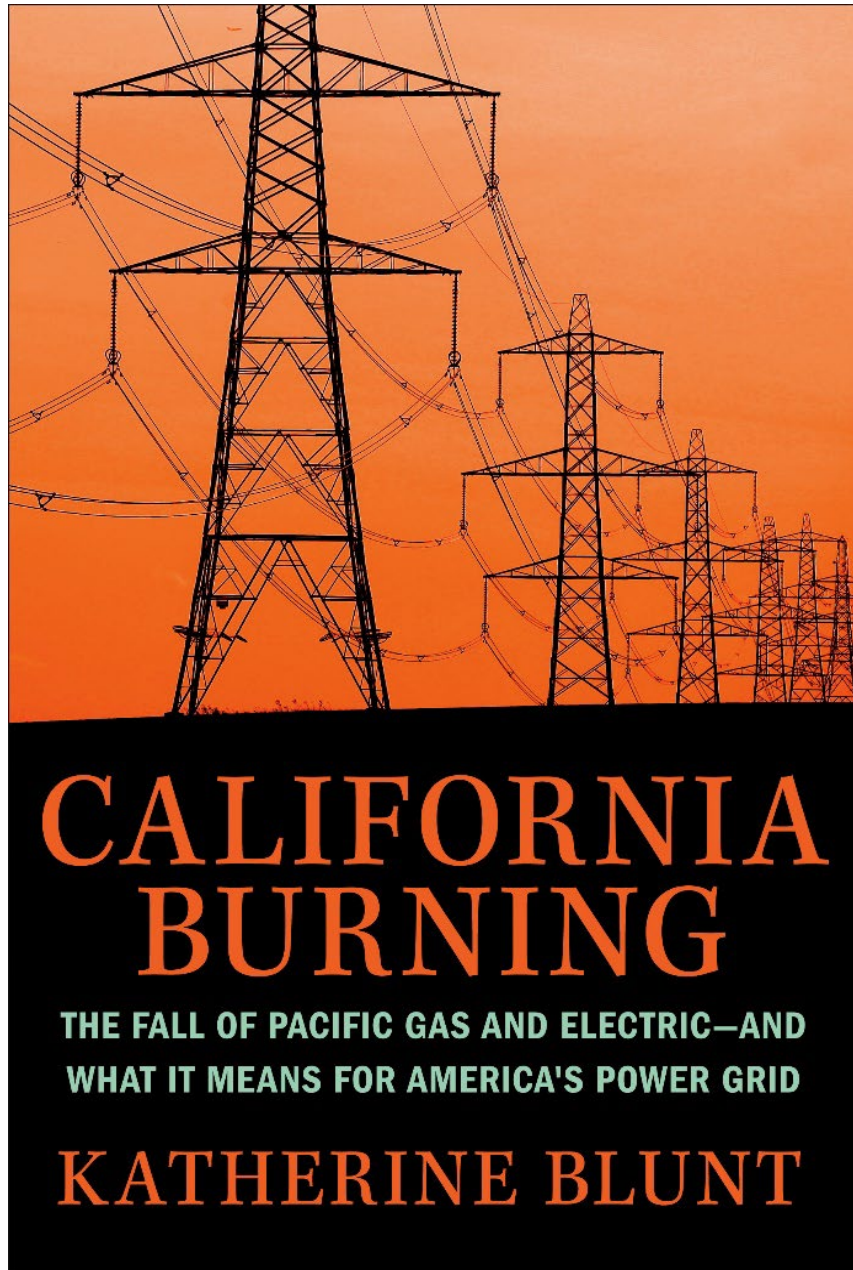




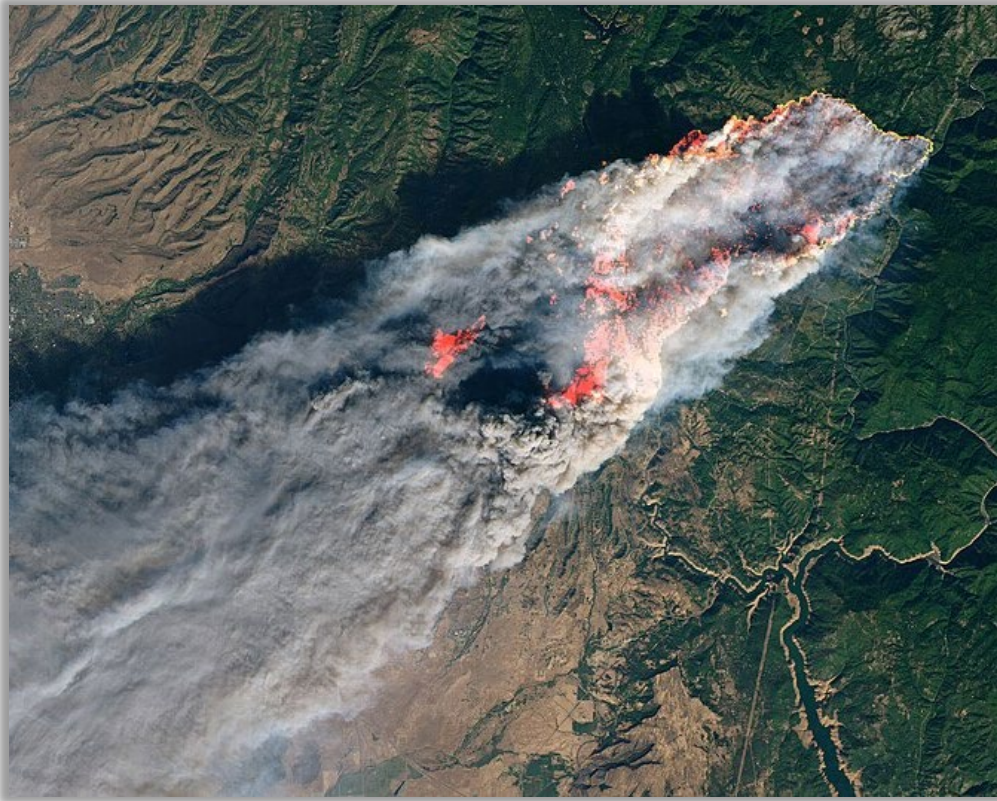
California Burning: When Climate Change Came for PG&E

Rutgers Climate Symposium

November 13, 2024

Paradise Destroyed

Fire spread 80 football fields a minute
84 people died



NOVEMBER 8, 2018
TRANSPOSITION TOWER 27/222



A Major Merger

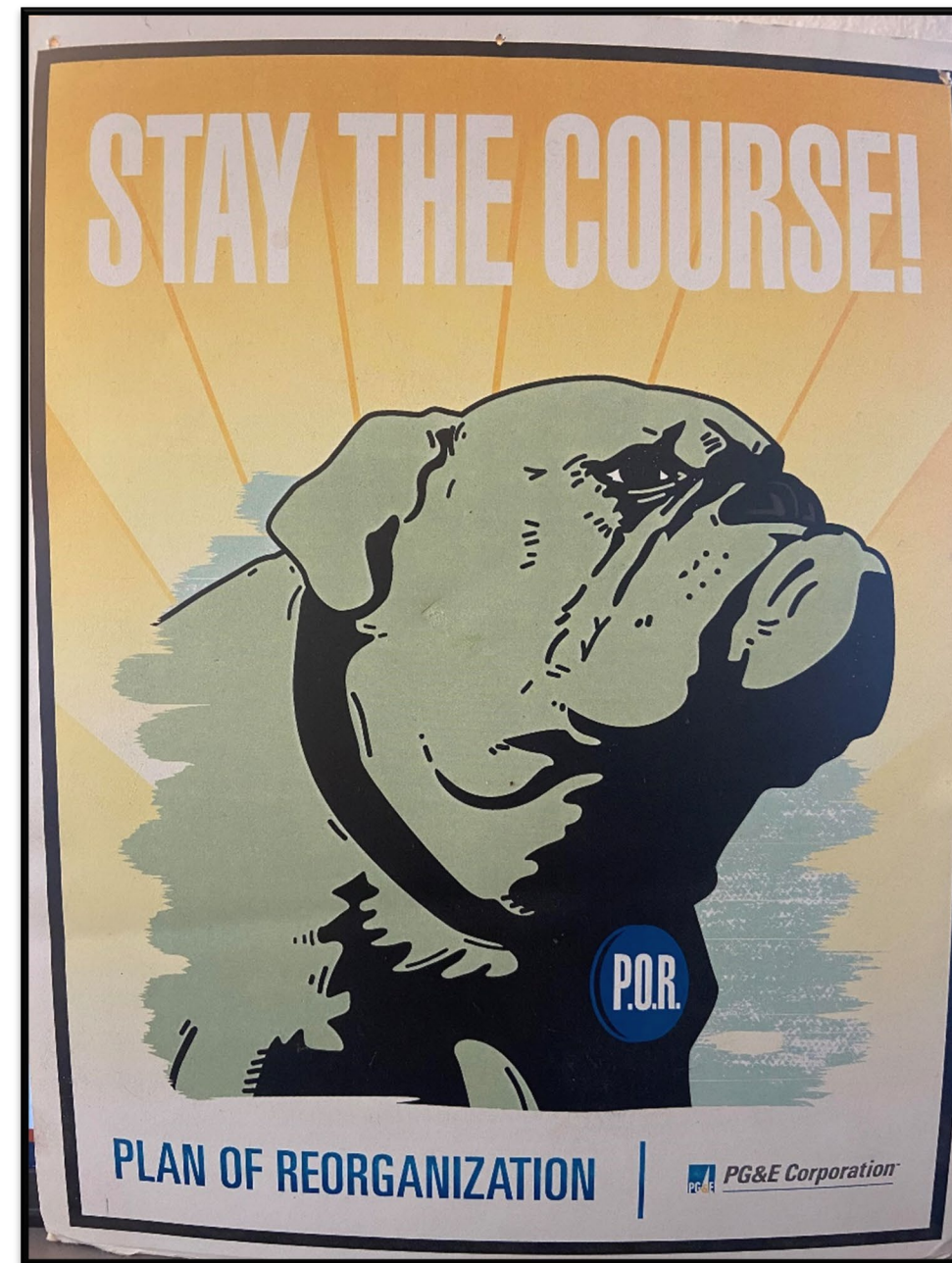
PG&E and Great Western become one in 1930
PG&E inherits Feather River system





Market Failure

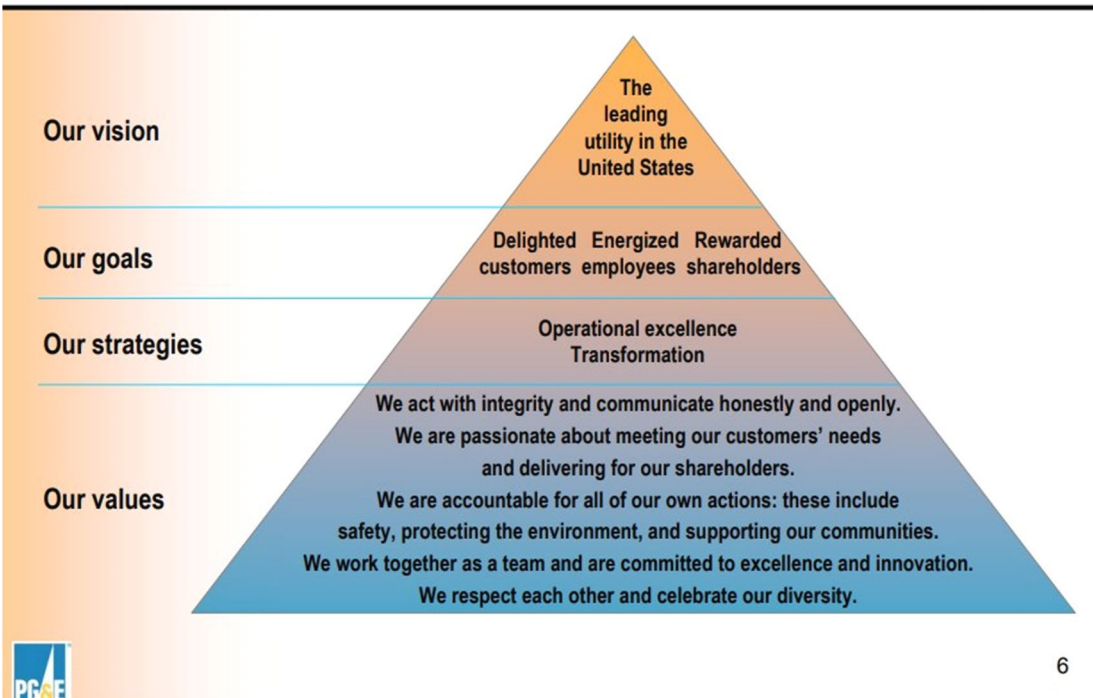
PG&E filed for bankruptcy on April 6, 2001



Business Transformation

An effort to overhaul the company failed – and resulted in deep cuts to maintenance spending

PG&E Vision



6



1

Witch Fire: San Diego, 2007

Order Instituting Rulemaking To Revise and Clarify Commission Regulations Relating to the Safety of Electric Utility and Communications Infrastructure Provider Facilities.

FILED
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2008
SAN FRANCISCO
R.08-11-005

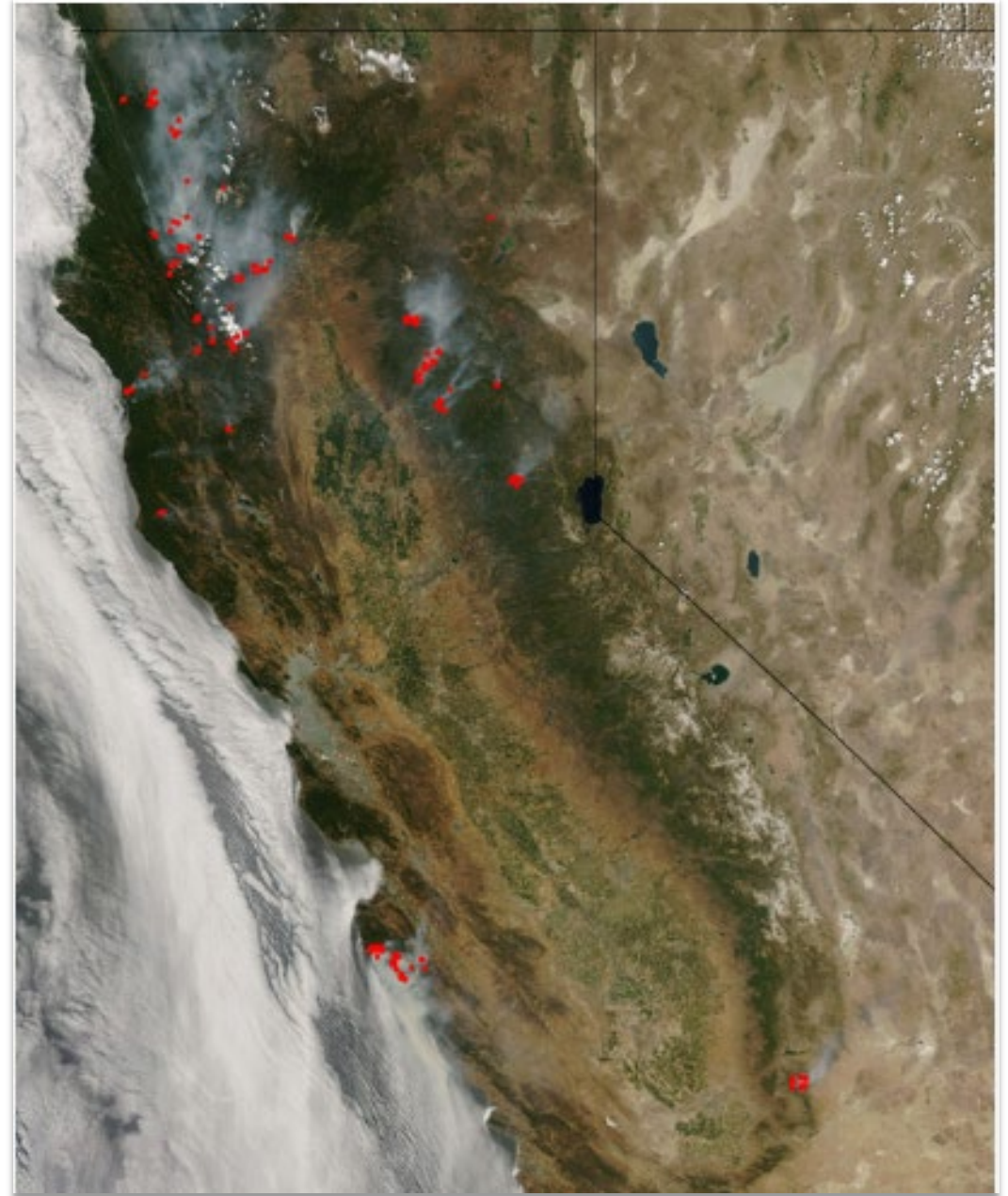
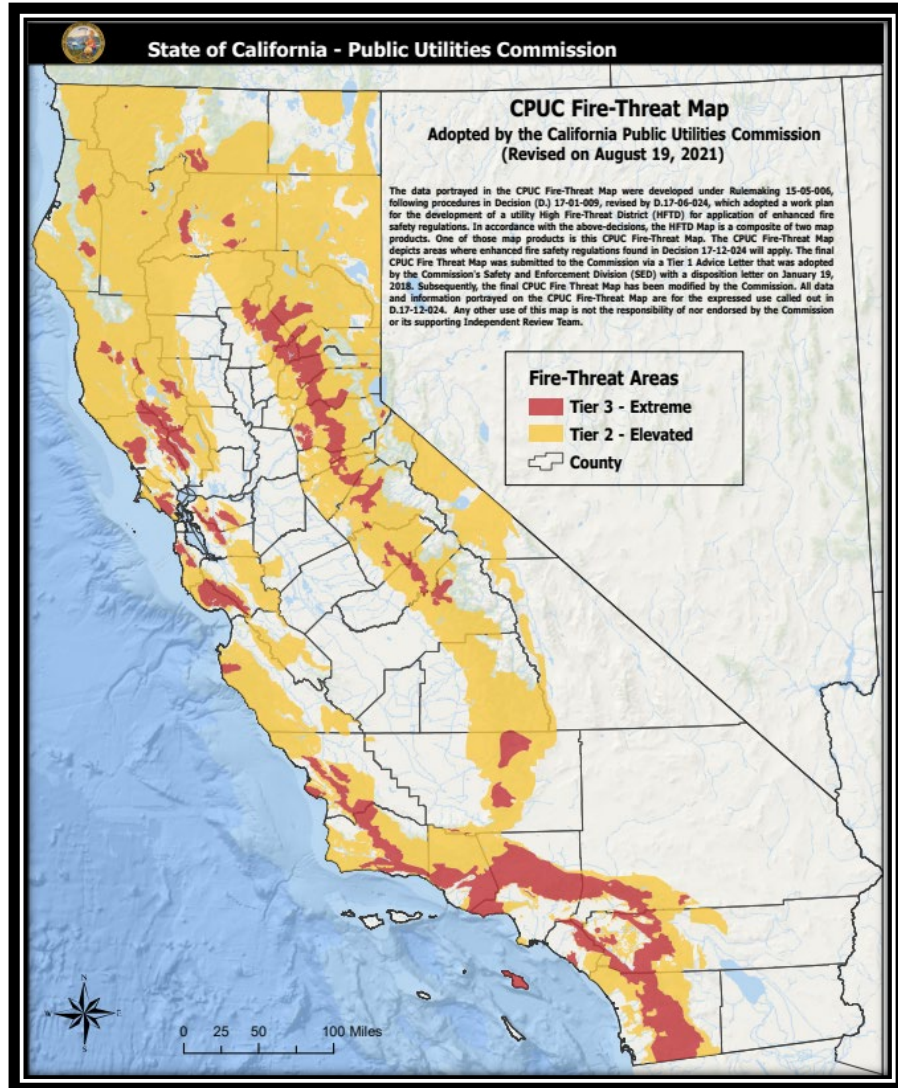
ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING

I. SUMMARY

This Order Instituting Rulemaking is initiated to consider revising and clarifying the Commission's regulations designed to protect the public from potential hazards, including fires, which may be caused from electric utility transmission or distribution lines or communications infrastructure providers' facilities in proximity to the electric overhead transmission or distribution lines. The Commission's current General Orders 95, 128, and 165 are already designed to promote the safe operation of electric utility and communications infrastructure facilities, and provide the minimum safety requirements which the utilities are supposed to supplement with additional safety precautions when local conditions warrant. Nevertheless, as the devastating fires in Southern California during the last two years have shown, there may be potential problems associated with the electric utilities' and communications infrastructure providers' facilities, which may necessitate additional Commission safeguards.



With Drought Comes Fire



San Bruno Gas Explosion 2010

A pipeline ruptured, killing eight people and destroying a neighborhood



A Missed Opportunity

4. The Requirement to Have a Fire Prevention Plan Should Be Deferred to Phase 3; In the Alternative, It Does Not Belong in Standard 1 of General Order 166 and Its Provisions Needs Significant Reworking

The PD's proposed new standard that requires electric utilities to have a fire prevention plan appears to be a combination of the Mussey Grade MAP on Rule 18C (which proposed that utilities have contingency plans for predicting and identifying fire hazard conditions)¹⁹ and a San Diego Gas and Electric proposal to proactively shut down portions of its service territory in time of high fire danger.²⁰

PG&E agrees that utilities (both electric and CIPs) should consider fire prevention during their operations – especially at times and in areas that have high fire risk. However, PG&E does not agree that it is necessary to require a formal plan specific to fire prevention. PG&E already

Further, the orders and the rule itself establishing the fire prevention plan are very specific and restrictive. Language needs to be developed that would make it clear that utilities should have flexibility to craft plans based on the unique geographic conditions, weather, utility infrastructure and other factors. For example, high winds in Northern California are most frequently associated with winter storms (not summer fire risk) and may not play as great a role in potential fire risk in Northern California as they do in Southern California.

Attorney – Client Privileged Pacific Gas and Electric

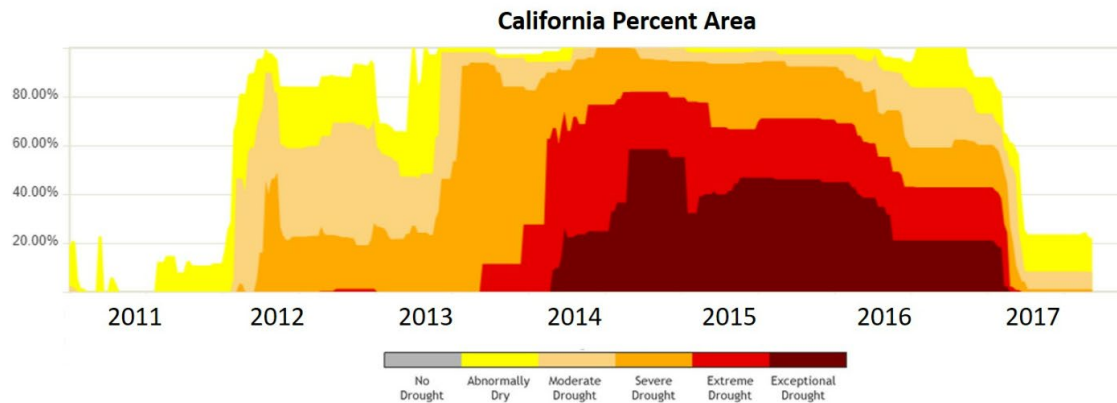
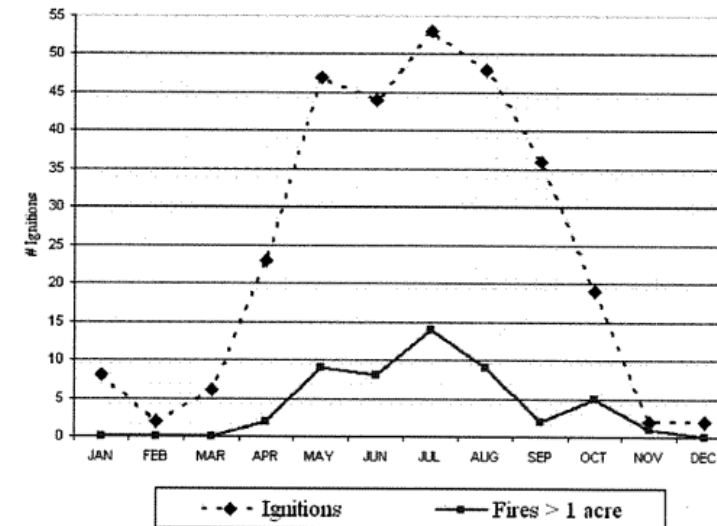
D. Ignitions by time of year

Ignitions were most frequent during the fire season of April 15 through October 31, and virtually all of the 50 fires that burned more than one acre occurred during the fire season (Figure 1).

Two weather events accounted for a significant proportion of ignitions during the last four years:

- ❖ Thirty ignitions occurred during the unusually dry, windy week of May 14 to May 22, 2008. Seven of these ignitions resulted in fires greater than one acre burned.
- ❖ Twelve ignitions occurred on April 14, 2009, including two on transmission. This was a very windy day in the northern half of the service territory. None of these ignitions resulted in fires greater than one acre burned.

Figure 1. Ignitions during 2007 through 2010 -- All Causes



This time series graph shows the percent area of California affected by each of the U.S. Drought Monitor's severity categories during the 2011-2017 California drought. (Source: U.S. Drought Monitor)

Fire Siege, October 2017

PG&E's power lines sparked blazes that killed at least 22 people



Camp Fire

The company pleaded guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter



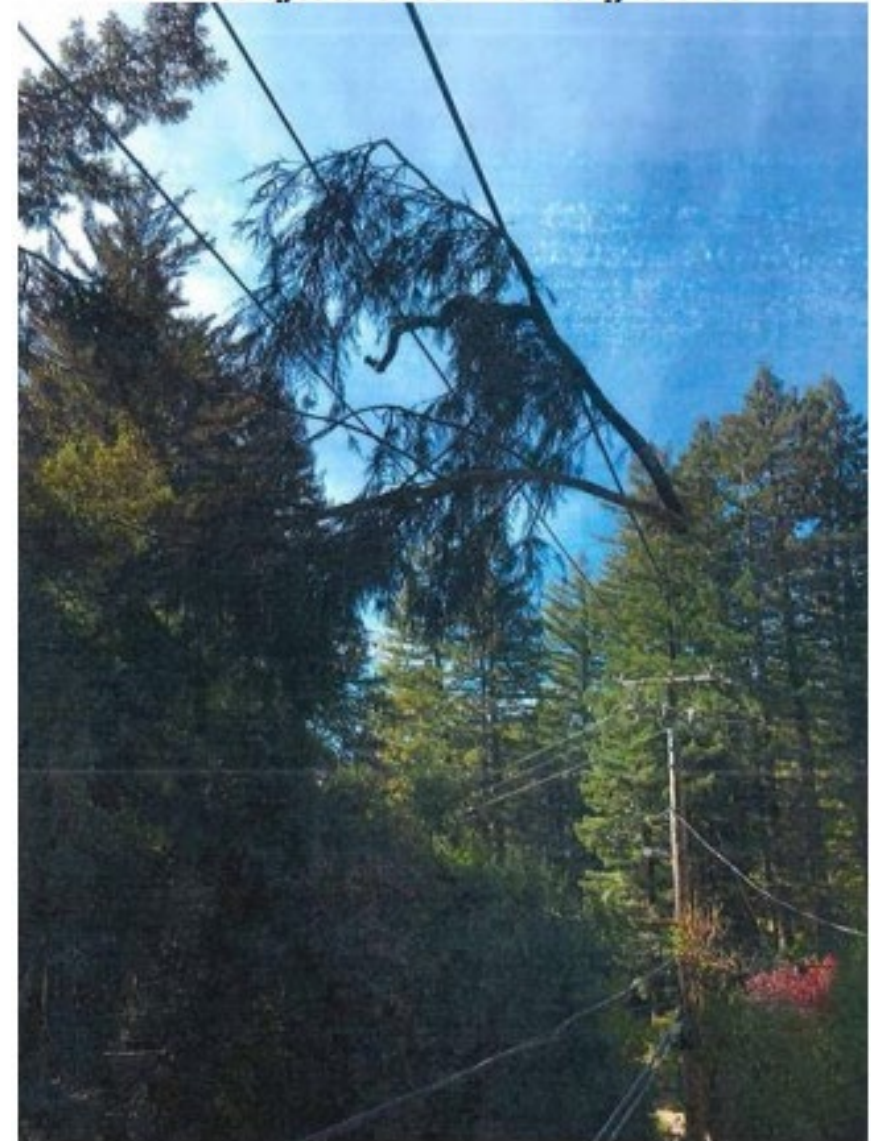
Blackout

PG&E now shuts off the power when fire risk is high



Figure 1. Foresthill, Placer County. Pole, cross-arm and conductor damaged by split tree.

*Figure 9 – In Woodside, San Mateo County
Branch flew Onto Primary Wires*



Burying the Problem



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

BUSINESS

One of America's Toughest CEO Jobs: Fixing PG&E

Patti Poppe surprised her own board with a multibillion-dollar plan to bury the utility's fire-prone power lines. Bold action—and compassion—is needed to stabilize the company, she says.

