2020 WILDFIRE MITIGATION FOR UTILITIES CONFERENCE

June 16-17, 2020
Online | Pacific Time

EUCI is pleased to offer this virtual conference on its online interactive platform. Enjoy a valuable learning experience with a smaller impact on your time and budget. You will gain new knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience in from the comfort of your remote location.

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
Wildfire Financial Risk Management for Utilities
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

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EUCI is authorized by IACET to offer 0.9 CEUs for the conference and 0.3 CEUs for the workshop.
OVERVIEW

In the West, wildfires are increasing in both frequency and severity, and electrical companies operating in wildfire-prone areas face significant risks. Utilities must take measures to reduce exposure and mitigate financial liability.

This summit will bring together utility personnel from Western states to collaborate and discuss:

• Infrastructure Enhancements to Reduce Risk of Wildfires
• Key Objectives of Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans
• Regulatory Views of Proposed Mitigation Plans
• De-energization to Minimize Risk
• Wildland-Urban Interface and Challenges of Vegetation Management

The post-event workshop will focus on financial risk management. Recent catastrophic wildfires attributed to utilities have caused billions of dollars in property damage, leading to increased costs for utilities, credit downgrades, and bankruptcy. This workshop will detail the complicated issues surrounding utilities and the costs associated with wildfire risks.

At EUCI’s Wildfire Mitigation for Utilities Symposium, utility and industry professionals, wildfire experts, and thought leaders from across the West will inform and engage each other about the challenges of wildfires and share their best practices and lessons learned, as well as sharing cutting-edge technology that can help us better manage these disasters.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This conference will provide attendees an opportunity to:

• Discuss how to collaborate with customers, community groups, federal agencies and other stakeholders to stay ahead of impending disasters
• Demonstrate best practices on how to prepare official wildfire mitigation plans
• Discuss strategies for grid hardening, situational awareness, & vegetation management
• Identify lessons learned from case studies of recent wildfires
• Explore new and traditional ways of forecasting and planning for wildfire risk
• Recognize pros and cons of PSPS (Public Safety Power Shut-Off) events
• Demonstrate how to be proactive in wildfire planning and prevention

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Individuals working in the following areas will benefit from attending this event:

• Electric Utility Leaders
• Utility Risk Management Professionals
• Utility Grid Planning and Operations Specialists
• Utility Transmission and Field Services Personnel
• State and Federal Agencies
• Mitigation Specialists
• Policy Makers
• Researchers
• Corporate Communications Specialists
• Insurers
• Consultants
• Fire Prevention & Mitigation Technology Providers
AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020

7:45 – 8:00 am  Login
8:00 – 8:05 am  Welcome Remarks and Introduction
8:05 – 8:30 am  Keynote Address
   Caroline Thomas-Jacobs, Director, Wildfire Safety Division, California Public Utilities Commission
8:30 – 9:30 am  Regulatory View of Proposed Mitigation Plans: Key Objectives
   As climate change and wildfires continue to dominate policy discussions in much of the West, utilities are designing mitigation plans to prevent electric equipment-related fires, improve resiliency of regional grids, and keep customers safe. Policymakers are examining these plans and recommending solutions. This panel brings together regulators from various states and British Columbia to discuss the key objectives they are looking for in comprehensive utility mitigation plans.
   Moderator: Caroline Thomas-Jacobs, Director, Wildfire Safety Division, California Public Utilities Commission
   David Morton, Chair and CEO, British Columbia Utilities Commission
   Letha Tawney, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission
9:30 – 9:45 am  Q & A
9:45 am – 10:00 am  Short Break
10:00 – 10:30 am  Infrastructure Enhancements to Reduce Risk of Wildfires
   What pole risk mitigation and wire safety enhancement programs will be most effective, and what are the costs and time allotment for these efforts? What are the barriers utilities face in these efforts? and what are the best practices for operational fire prevention with employees, facilities, and culture change relative to daily operations? This presentation will outline infrastructure improvements that can help in the mitigation of wildfires.
   Mark Regan, Wildfire Specialist, NV Energy
10:30 – 10:45  Q&A
10:45 – 11:00 am  Short Break
11:00 – 11:30 am  Wildfire Risk and Grid Resilience
   Utilities in fire-prone regions are working to minimize risk of infrastructure causing catastrophic events. This session will cover integration efforts in operations, situational awareness, and customer outreach as implemented by San Diego Gas & Electric.
   Brian D’Agostino, Director, Fire Science & Climate Adaptation, San Diego Gas & Electric
11:30 – 11:45  Q & A
11:45 – 1:30 pm  Lunch
AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 (CONTINUED)

1:30 – 3:00 pm  **Technological Enhancements and Tools for Utilities**
This session will be a showcase featuring a series of presentations and/or case studies spotlighting the latest tech and tools available for utilities that will simplify forecasting, operational decision-making, and modeling fire behavior.

*Ryan Brockbank, COO and Senior VP, Consulting Services at Environmental Consultants (ECI)*
*Scott Rogers, Chief Technology Officer, Environmental Consultants (ECI)*
*Skyler Ditchfield, CEO and Co-Founder, GeoLinks*
*Graham Kent, Professor, Alert Wildfire Program, University of Nevada*
*Dean McCormick, Regional Channel Manager, Hexagon Geospatial*

3:00 – 3:15 pm  **Q & A**

3:15 – 3:30 pm  **Break**

3:30 – 4:30 pm  **Panel Discussion: Wildland–Urban Interface and Challenges of Vegetation Management**
Increased development in the wildland urban interface (WUI) has resulted in higher fire risk and more suppression needs, costing billions every year. Vegetation management is a critical issue. It is one of the largest expense items associated with maintaining overhead transmission and distribution systems. NERC sets vegetation management requirements for transmission, but clearance requirements differ from state to state. This panel brings together WUI and vegetation management experts to discuss best practices for these critical steps in wildfire mitigation.

*Barnie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester, US Forest Service*
*Jessica Morse, Deputy Secretary of Forest Resources Management, California Natural Resources Agency*
*Dave Sapis, Wildfire Scientist, California Department Of Forestry And Fire Protection*

4:30 pm  **Day 1 Adjourns**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 2020

7:45 – 8:00 am  **Login**

8:00 – 8:05 am  **Welcome Remarks**

8:05 – 8:30 am  **De-energization to Minimize Wildfire Risk**
Investor-owned utilities in California have general authority to shut off electric power to protect public safety under state law. Utilities have exercised this authority as a last resort through Public Safety Power Shut-offs. This presentation will discuss how de-energization impacts can be mitigated to reduce customer impacts.

*Jonathan Woldemariam, Director of Wildfire & Vegetation Management, San Diego Gas & Electric*

8:30 – 8:35 am  **Q & A**
**AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 2020 (CONTINUED)**

**8:35 – 9:45 am**  
**Operational Fire Prevention**  
Many utilities are making technological enhancements to minimize the threat of wildfires, but operational procedures, supplemental inspection, and maintenance work is imperative as well. What are the latest developments and best practices?  
**Session 1: Real Time Intelligent Remote Sensing in Wildfire Mitigation**  
Tero Heinonen, CEO, Ai4 Technologies  
Joe Purohit, CEO, Tree Asset Manager  
Samuel Salmenlinna, COO, Ai4 Technologies

**9:45 –10:10 am**  
**Case Study: PG&E**  
Matthew Pender, Director, Community Wildfire Safety Program, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**10:10 – 10:15 am**  
**Q&A**

**10:15 – 10:20 am**  
**Short break**

**10:20 – 10:50 am**  
**Situational Awareness Strategies**  
Climate change is provoking extreme weather events, and to help mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, utilities are looking towards innovative tools to improve forecasts of extreme weather-related risks to the grid. Underlying data needs to be collected and analyzed to be better prepared for events before they occur. This presentation will include best practices using weather data, model output data, decision-support tools, and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras to mitigate fire risk in particular. Dive into a solution-driven conversation on how advances in climate science, big data, and machine learning are coming together to predict threats and vulnerabilities to the electricity system.  
**Chris Arends, Meteorology Program Manager, San Diego Gas & Electric**

**10:50 – 11:00 am**  
**Q&A**

**11:00 – 11:30 am**  
**Communication Strategies Before and After Catastrophic Events**  
In May 2018, Seattle City Light was awarded a Public Education award for its five-year plan for wildfire mitigation. The plan was created through collaboration of local emergency management experts, community members, climate adaptation specialists, and City Light employees. This presentation will demonstrate how this plan, even in its early state proved to be successful, and how they are planning to increase awareness in the future.  
**Cody Watson, Fire Brigade Chief, Seattle City Light**

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Open Q&A: Tech and Tools**

**12:00 pm**  
**Summit Adjourns**
POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
Wildfire Financial Risk Management for Utilities
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

OVERVIEW

Recent catastrophic wildfires caused by utilities have caused billions of dollars in property damage. These damages will lead to increased costs for utilities, which could be passed on to ratepayers. The potential of increased costs associated with wildfire risks has affected the credit markets, leading to one IOU (Pacific Gas and Electric) declaring bankruptcy, as well as credit downgrades for other utilities. These credit downgrades make securing financing for capital investments more difficult, which could also lead to cost increases for ratepayers. POUs and cooperatives also face financial crisis. In most cases POUs are unable to shift the burden of their liability threat, causing costs to be born by ratepayers. This workshop will detail the complicated issues surrounding utilities and the costs associated with wildfire risks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discover how to collaborate with financial experts and insurers to minimize increased costs for utilities
- Demonstrate best practices on how to secure financing for capital investments during difficult times
- Identify options for offloading financial risk to insurers and capital markets
- Discuss strategies for minimizing risk to ratepayers while providing affordable service
- Develop a deep understanding of current legislation including Bill 1054 and get an overview of proposed litigation

WORKSHOP AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

1:45 – 1:55 pm  |  Login
1:55 – 2:00 pm  |  Welcome Remarks
2:00 – 2:30 pm  |  The Cost of Wildfires
When utilities are found to be a cause of a fire, they can be required to pay for property damage, suppression expenditures incurred by government entities, and other economic and natural resource damages. How can utilities minimize risk to ratepayers and continue to provide affordable service? 
Sean Hecht, Co-Executive Director, Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, UCLA Law School

2:30 – 2:45 pm  |  Q & A
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020 (CONTINUED)

2:45 – 3:15 pm  **Insurance**  
With the increased frequency and severity of wildfires in the West, utilities must struggle with insurance costs that are significantly higher than a few years ago. In the volatile environment of credit rating downgrades and higher financing costs for utilities, how can utilities offload more wildfire financial risk to insurers and capital markets?  
*Senior Representative, California Department Insurance*

3:15 – 3:20 pm  **Q & A**

3:20 – 3:30 pm  **Break**

3:30 – 4:15 pm  **Legislation**  
In California, Assembly Bill 1054 was passed as an urgency statute for stabilization, establishing a $21 billion wildfire fund which electrical corporations may access upon meeting specified requirements. Half of that money comes from utilities, the other half is funded by ratepayers. How does the fund work, and what is its status California is heading into the next wildfire season?  
*Glenn Pomeroy, CEO, California Earthquake Authority – Interim Administrator of California Wildfire Fund*

4:15 – 4:45 pm  **Q & A and Recap: Moving Forward to Manage Wildfire Risk**

4:45 pm  **Workshop Adjourns**

**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS**

Sean Hecht  
*Co-Director, Emmet Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA Law School*

Glenn Pomeroy  
*CEO, California Earthquake Authority – Interim Administrator of California Wildfire Fund*

Senior Representative  
*California Department of Insurance*
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This program will use PowerPoint presentations and active participant discussion.

ONLINE COURSE DELIVERY & PARTICIPATION DETAILS

We will be using Microsoft Teams to facilitate your participation in the upcoming event. You do not need to have an existing Teams account in order to participate in the broadcast – the course will play in your browser and you will have the option of using a microphone to speak with the room and ask questions, or type any questions in via the chat window and our on-site representative will relay your question to the instructor.

• You will need to join the appropriate meeting at the appropriate time.
• You will receive a meeting invitation will include a link to join the meeting.
• Separate meeting invitations will be sent for the morning and afternoon sessions of the course.
  o You will need to join the appropriate meeting at the appropriate time.
• If you are using a microphone, please ensure that it is muted until such time as you need to ask a question.
• The remote meeting connection will be open approximately 30 minutes before the start of the course. We encourage you to connect as early as possible in case you experience any unforeseen problems.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

You must be logged in for the entire presentation and send in the evaluation after the online course is completed.

IACET CREDITS

EUCI has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). In obtaining this accreditation, EUCI has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of good practice. As a result of their Authorized Provider status, EUCI is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard.

EUCI is authorized by IACET to offer 0.9 CEUs for the conference and 0.3 CEUs for the workshop.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to drive new business through this event’s powerful audience? Becoming a sponsor or exhibitor is an excellent opportunity to raise your profile before a manageably sized group of executives who make the key purchasing decisions for their businesses. There is a wide range of sponsorship opportunities available that can be customized to fit your budget and marketing objectives, including: Platinum, Gold, or VIP sponsor, Reception host, Tabletop exhibit, Lanyard sponsor, Luncheon host and Breakfast host.

Please contact Dana Waldrop at dwaldrop@euci.com or 720-409-0642 for more information.
Substitutions & Cancellations

Your registration may be transferred to a member of your organization up to 24 hours in advance of the event. Cancellations must be received on or before May 15, 2020 in order to be refunded and will be subject to a US $195.00 processing fee per registrant. No refunds will be made after this date. Cancellations received after this date will create a credit of the tuition (less processing fee) good toward any other EUCI event. This credit will be good for six months from the cancellation date. In the event of non-attendance, all registration fees will be forfeited. In case of conference cancellation, EUCI’s liability is limited to refund of the event registration fee only. For more information regarding administrative policies, such as complaints and refunds, please contact our offices at 303-770-8800.

EUCI reserves the right to alter this program without prior notice.

How did you hear about this event? (direct e-mail, colleague, speaker(s), etc.)

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CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

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OR Enclosed is a check for $ to cover registrations.

Online Course Delivery & Participation Details

See page 8 for information