

UNDERGROUNDING

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS



Faced with the ongoing threat of more frequent and catastrophic wildfires, California needs more resilient infrastructure. Southern California Edison continues to strengthen its electric grid, using innovative tools, technologies and practices to further protect customers and communities from the ongoing risks of wildfires.

As of the end of 2021, approximately 42% of the primary distribution lines in SCE's high fire risk areas are undergrounded (roughly 7,100 circuit miles out of a total of 16,800). Covered conductor has been installed on another 2,900 circuit miles with an additional 1,100 miles planned for 2022.

UNDERGROUNDING AS A WILDFIRE MITIGATION MEASURE

Underground systems can help reduce the risk of wildfires and increase reliability during high winds and storms by reducing the exposure of electrical infrastructure to extreme weather conditions. However, underground power lines take much longer to construct, are more costly and are more difficult to maintain and repair than overhead infrastructure, particularly in mountainous and rocky terrain.

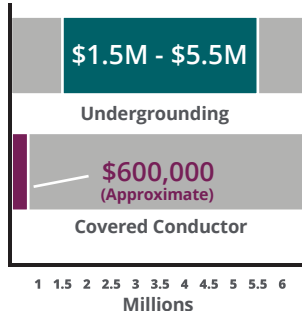
SCE has identified a subset of high fire risk areas as "Severe Risk Areas" where we have determined that for public safety reasons it is prudent to not just significantly reduce ignition risk now, but also in the long term. In those areas that meet certain criteria, SCE may opt to underground power lines.

SAFE AND EXPEDITIOUS PATH TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION: INSULATED WIRE

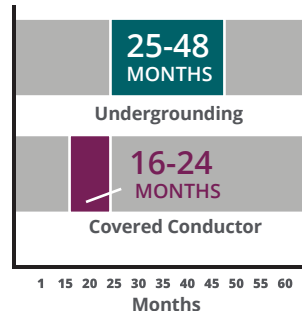
One of the most valuable tools in terms of reducing ignition risk cost-effectively and expeditiously is the use of insulated wire, also known as covered conductor, supplemented with inspections and vegetation management. Typically, covered conductor can be installed in less than two years, whereas undergrounding can take at least two years and as much as four years.

Mitigation Comparison

Approximate Average Cost/Mile (Millions)



Deployment Speed (Months)



Primary Distribution Circuit Miles in High Fire Risk Areas

