

# COVERED CONDUCTOR KEEPS POWER FLOWING SAFELY



Dry ground conditions combined with strong winds created a significant threat of wildfire for many southern California communities in 2021. Over the course of the year, SCE employed Public Safety Power Shutoffs as a measure of last resort to address that threat, during the most serious wind conditions in areas facing the highest risk of wildfire.



SCE's wildfire mitigation efforts include PSPS outages, but also the installation of hundreds of weather stations and wildfire cameras, the use of predictive technologies, enhanced overhead inspections and the installation of thousands of miles of insulated power lines. These measures should help reduce the need for PSPS events in the future and help with the reliability of the grid.

Before and after high wind events, crews patrol affected areas to ensure debris and vegetation have not blown into equipment. When damage occurs, crews clear the lines and make any needed repairs to ensure its safe to restore power. 2021 field inspections have revealed not only many instances of debris blown into lines after high wind events, but also large tree branches and trees toppling onto lines.

In the instances shown to the right, branches landed on covered conductor, but because the wires are insulated, these strikes did not cause a fault or sparking on the circuit. The wires performed as designed, reduced the risk of wildfire and customers did not have to experience an outage.

Over the last 2 years, SCE has prioritized the use of insulated wires to reduce the risk of wildfires as it is the fastest and most cost effective option to reduce the risk that debris blown into lines will damage equipment or create an ignition source during high wind events. So far SCE has installed over 2,500 miles of covered conductor in high fire risk areas, with plans for thousands more in 2022 and 2023.



*Inspection photos show tree branches that had fallen onto insulated wires (covered conductors). Power remained safely on for customers in the Idyllwild area of Riverside County-November 25, 2021.  
Credit: Trenton Koury*



**For additional information regarding SCE's ongoing wildfire mitigation work please visit [www.sce.com/mitigation](http://www.sce.com/mitigation)**