

Wildfire risk areas

USFS Wildfire Hazard Potential



Assessing and mitigating wildfire risk is a priority for PSE. PSE's risk model takes multiple factors into account including wildfire potential, probability, impact, weather patterns, grid infrastructure, system configuration, historical data, and forecasts.

None / Very low



Wildfire Hazard Potential is based on wildfire probability, intensity, and potential impact.

The combination of high heat, low humidity, dry terrain, and high winds increase wildfire risks.

Based on PSE's 2022 risk modeling, one area of concern includes the transmission and distribution lines in Kittitas County.

To reduce wildfire risk in your area, we are conducting aerial and ground-level inspections, vegetation management, maintenance and equipment upgrades – as well as implementing operational protocols.



	arthstar Geographics NOAA, Esri IWPS Hazard	Earthstar Geographics NOAA Daily NWS Hazard	Esri	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +			
Operating Areas	Circuit-ID	Weighted Risk	Low Risk Mileage	Medium Risk Mileage	High Risk Mileage	Highest IFPL	Overbuild?
CK is ≈ from last run	KIT-26	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	False
NK is ≈ from last run	KIT-25	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	False
NO is ≈ from last run	WOD-15	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	True
SK is ≈ from last run	CLE-11	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	True
SO is ≈ from last run	KIT-22	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	3	False
WE is ≈ from last run	GRI-16	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	False
	GRI-13	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	True
	E CONTRACTO	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	True
	BLU-16	0.42					

To monitor field conditions 24/7, PSE has developed a real-time dashboard that merges weather and environmental conditions with our risk modeling.



Fault reduction and protection

Fault reduction and protection means strengthening our electric grid so it's better at preventing disruptions—or recovering from them.

PSE is investing in infrastructure improvements that will improve reliability, and lessen the threat of wildfires across our service territory. This includes a number of projects in Kittitas County.

PSE risk-reduction investments and operational protocols

Fault reduction

- Enhanced vegetation management
- PSPS
- Covered conductor "tree wire"
- Undergrounding select power lines
- Pole replacement
- Added distribution capacity
- Replacing copper wire

Fault protection

- Recloser installation and blocking
- SCADA
- Distribution automation
- Transmission automation
- Arc suppression fuses
- Fire resistant service transformers





2022-2025 fault reduction and projection projects

Reclosers automatically open and close to restore momentary outages and improve system reliability. In high risk fire weather conditions, PSE turns off the reclosers to reduce wildfire risks.



Covered conductor (aka "tree wire") is a specially coated, overhead wire that's designed to prevent an electric short when a tree limb falls into a power line.



Advanced technology



PSE is evaluating advanced technology to scan for possible vegetation encroachments.

Before and during each wildfire season, PSE conducts ground and aerial inspections to identify and mitigate equipment issues and potentially hazardous vegetation. PSE is evaluating the use of satellite imagery combined with machine learning and artificial intelligence to provide additional risk awareness and determine additional mitigative actions. This allows faster and more efficient assessments of large portions of PSE's overhead electric system — up to thousands of miles at a time!





Along with helicopters, PSE's aerial inspections use drones that carry Thermal/IR and HD camera packages

Example of a fiberglass cross arm



Public safety power shuttoffs (PSPS)

During high-risk weather conditions, some utilities proactively turn off power lines to help prevent wildfires. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

PSE takes many actions to reduce the risk of wildfires in its service territory.

PSE is developing a PSPS plan in case we ever need it, as another tool to reduce wildfire risks.

We understand that losing power can create inconvenience and hardship for customers, which is why your input is a part of our planning.

Let us know!

- •What are your biggest concerns about PSPS?
- •What kinds of notification methods should PSE use for PSPS?
- How far in advance would you want to be notified, and how often?
- •What else should PSE know, or be asking, about your community?



Make sure your PSE account information is accurate

Update your phone and email information at **pse.com** or by calling 1-888-225-5773.

Do you have medical equipment that depends on electricity?

Please call 1-888-225-5773 so we can walk you through the process for notating your PSE account.

How to access your account at pse.com

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Account & Billing	Safety & Outages	Customer Service	Efficiency & Gr	een Options	Construction Services	Who We Are
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Pay bill	Pay bill View and pay my bill		my usage	My account	Tariffs, Rates, & Filings	
Automatic payr	Automatic payments Explain my bill		yze my usage	Start stop or move	News and notices	
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