



# Wildfire Mitigation and Response Program

## Vegetation management and wildfire risk

Over the past decade, wildfires have emerged as a significant public health and safety concern for much of the Western United States. Puget Sound Energy's Wildfire Mitigation and Response Program includes our year-round efforts to prepare for and help prevent wildfires in PSE's service area.

## PSE vegetation management

Vegetation management is an important element of PSE's Wildfire Program. Nearby potential fuel sources, such as vegetation, when combined with fire weather conditions, can increase the risk of wildfires starting and spreading. Trees and other vegetation that grow too close to power lines can also make contact with the lines or other equipment, causing power outages and potentially creating sparks.

PSE regularly inspects power lines throughout our service area and trims or removes trees vegetation that encroaches on power lines. In areas of higher wildfire risk, we inspect these lines every year prior to the start of wildfire season.

## How you can help reduce wildfire risk

We need your help to maintain healthy trees and vegetation while reducing fuel sources and wildfire risk.

**Create defensible space:** Clear brush or other flammable items from around your home. Check out resources from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for more information.

**Maintain trees on your property:** When trees are improperly trimmed, they can become a hazard. However, it is unsafe to trim vegetation growing near power lines – only specially trained professionals should do this work. Please contact PSE and we'll send out a PSE-certified arborist to evaluate the trees and utility lines at no cost to you.

**Plant the right tree:** When landscaping, select fire-resistant plants and locate trees a safe distance from power lines and other equipment. Always call 811 before you dig to avoid potential injury, fines and the disruption of your electric or natural gas service.

**Report danger trees:** If you notice a tree that is dangerously close to power lines, please fill out our contact form and we'll send out a PSE-certified arborist to investigate at no cost to you.

## Resources

**PSE Vegetation Management Program and contact form:** [pse.com/trees](https://pse.com/trees)

**Energy landscaping guide:** [pse.com/treeplanting](https://pse.com/treeplanting)

**DNR resources and fire-resistant plant guides:** [dnr.wa.gov/firewise](https://dnr.wa.gov/firewise)

**PSE Wildfire Program:** [pse.com/wildfirepreparedness](https://pse.com/wildfirepreparedness)

If you come across a downed utility wire of any kind, always assume it's energized and stay as far away as you can. Call **911** or call PSE at **1-888-225-5773** to report the downed line.

[pse.com](https://pse.com)

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