WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS IN COLORADO

September 2024

AGENDA

1. Context
2. Wildfire Mitigation Work and Operation Settings
3. Questions

Wildfire Mitigation: Context

Extreme weather and drier conditions mean that wildfires are a near year-round growing threat in regions across the country, even in areas that haven't traditionally been wildfire prone.

Xcel Energy is committed to doing our part and will continue to make strategic investments to help protect our customers, communities, and way of life.

Our goal is to ensure that no catastrophic wildfire is started by Xcel Energy assets–and our wildfire mitigation efforts are intended to support that goal.

Why Do Outages Occur?

1. **Severe Weather**
2. **Vegetation / Trees**
3. **Vehicle Accidents**
4. **Equipment-Related Upgrade or Failure**
5. **Wildlife / Other Objects**
6. **Undergrounding / Hit Lines**

Outage Classifications

Xcel Energy classifies outages according to the industry definitions defined in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic (IEEE) standards.

Momentary Outage

- Outage that is 5 minutes or less in duration.

Sustained Outage

- Outage that is greater than 5 minutes in duration.

Planned Outage

- Outages that are customer or public official-requested or the company has provided advance notice to the customer.

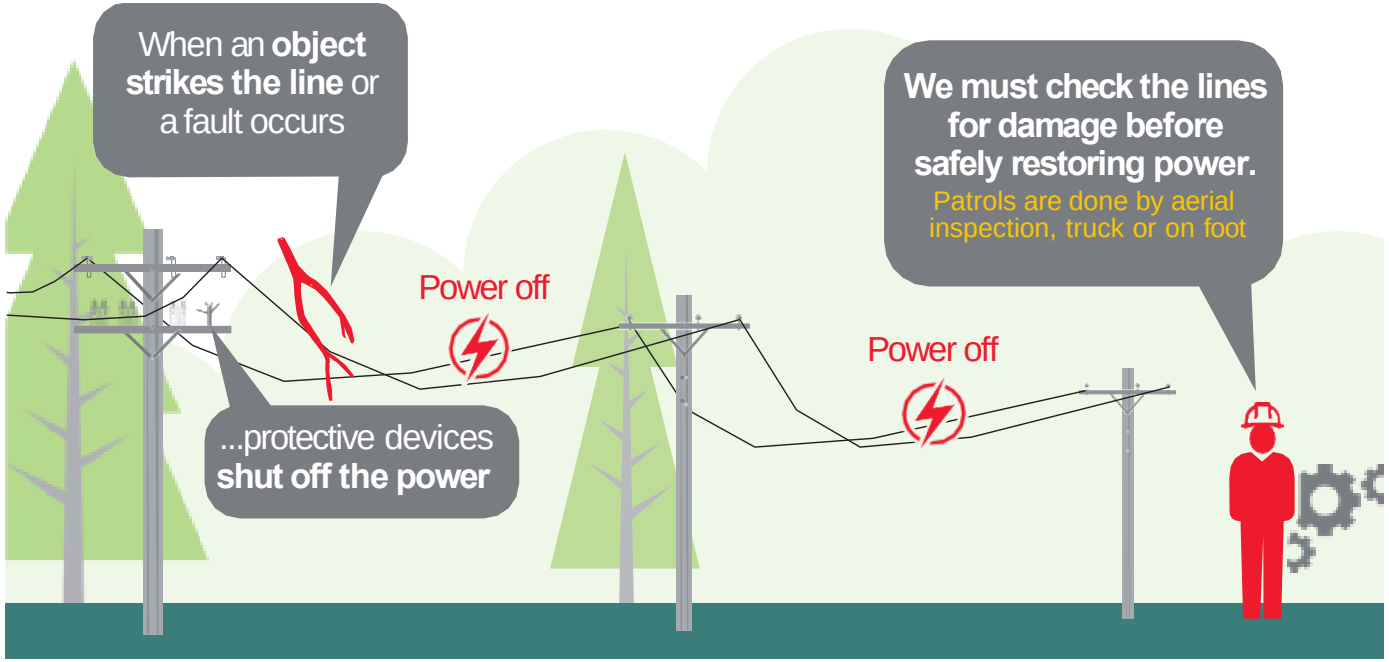
Major Event

- A set of outages which occurred during a specific time and location which combined, exceeds historically expected outage duration for at least on day.

Spotlight: Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)

EPSS is a proven wildfire mitigation tool.

It allows for power lines to remain in-service during periods of elevated wildfire risk, with protection settings enabled.



When EPSS is activated, power lines are more sensitive and can quickly stop the flow of energy if an issue is detected, like a tree branch or other object touching the line. When that occurs, the power will remain off until our crews can inspect the line to make sure it's safe to turn it back on.

It is intended to enhance public safety during heightened risk conditions, but it means power outages are likely to occur more frequently, and if they do, are likely to last longer because crews need to patrol the line before restoring power.

EPSS is used in risk zones identified by the CO State Forest Service and risk probability models considering facts like weather, housing density, terrain, miles of overhead lines.

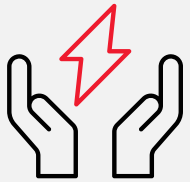
Comparing EPSS to PSPS

Both EPSS and PSPS are only used when the temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, and available fuel sources indicate a high risk for wildfires.

Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)

- EPSS allows for power lines to remain in-service during periods of elevated wildfire risk with protection settings enabled—unless an object actively causes a fault on the line.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)



- In a PSPS event, power is proactively shut off for safety. This is not a step we take lightly.
- PSPS is a mitigation tool used when risk cannot be adequately reduced by EPSS and other methods.

Xcel Energy is continually investing in and building out our systems to limit the size, scale, and duration of potential power disruptions.

ONGOING WILDFIRE MITIGATION WORK

OPERATIONAL SETTINGS

RECENT OUTAGE INFORMATION

Area: City of Salida and Poncha Springs area

There have been 4 from mid July through the first part of August. These outages all were related to EPSS settings

Xcel Energy has not had any Public Safety Power Shutoffs in the Chaffee County area to date