

Why Does PG&E Care about keeping Trees Away from Power Lines?

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Graphic reads: Why does PGE & Care about keeping trees away from power lines? The video opens with powerful images of the Bastrop county fire in Texas, followed by images of an urban blackout in a city in the North East. A vegetation management team with chainsaws and on bucket trucks, are shown cutting tree limbs and branches. A member of the team speaks to a female homeowner to explain their work.

TRANSCRIPT

- [Voiceover] Strong winds toppled trees and power lines, sparking the most destructive wild fire in Texas history. The Bastrop county fire devoured more than 35 thousand acres, killing two people and destroying nearly 1,700 homes. 50 million people lost power during the massive North East blackout of 2003. This two-day long outage was caused in part by an unpruned tree that contacted a high-voltage transmission line. A ten year-old boy died after contacting a falling power line outside his great-parents' home in Olympia, Washington. A falling tree limb broke the power line down.

Trees and overhead power lines, they're a bad combination It takes just one tree branch near a high-voltage line to ignite a raging wild fire cause a massive power outage or bring a power line down where it can injure or kill. To prevent these incidents PG&E's vegetation management team works to keep trees away from our high-voltage power lines. It's a huge job. Each year our crews and inspectors visit about two million properties. We work on about 6,000 trees every day, and we do it in a 70,000 square miles service area that includes some of the most diverse terrains in the world. Certainly, no one likes power outages and no one wants an electric hazard in their yard. And we know our customers love their trees and may not be so eager to see them pruned or removed. So, a big part of our job is helping you understand how and why we do what we do. If you have questions about trees near power lines, please call us any time at 1-800-PGE-5000. Remember, it's all about keeping you safe and keeping the lights on.

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