

Rusti ([00:01](#)):

We've experienced being evacuated five times. That is a scary thing, so it's a wonderful thing to be able to help protect our community and help it to be safe.

Narrator([00:11](#)):

KW Emerson, Inc., A contractor for PG&D's undergrounding program is rooted in the heart of Gold Country. Knowledge of the local area and the fire risk the community faces fuels the mom and pop style company's desire to help with PG&D's goal of making the electric system safer and more resilient.

Dan ([00:32](#)):

The fire hardening program is something that we actually, we believe in that. We believe that our company can help with it, and we're very proud of that.

Narrator ([00:43](#)):

But it's not just their commitment to safety that helps PG&E achieve its mission of installing underground power lines in the highest fire risk areas. The local construction company's close connections and strong ties in their hometown helps the complex wildfire safety work continue without a hitch.

Dan ([01:02](#)):

Local people doing local things is beneficial to everyone. We know where you can get rid of dirt. We know where you can get the cheapest sand. We know where we can get the materials and stuff that we need at the best rate instead of working through other contractors in areas that we're not familiar with.

Levi ([01:22](#)):

My best friend's aunt actually lives on one of the projects that we're getting ready to work on. And I've received several phone calls from her wanting to know what's going on, what it looks like, why can't we do this? And to be able to be that liaison between PG&E and the customers is an awesome opportunity.

Narrator ([01:43](#)):

The more than 20 miles of undergrounding work taking place in these rural foothills this year is just one of 27 counties where PG&E is undergrounding power lines. The work is an investment resulting in the permanent reduction of nearly all wildfire ignition risk from PG&E equipment in the area and improved service reliability during severe weather, making it one of the most effective ways to reduce wildfire risk at the lowest long-term cost to customers. System-wide, the effort has reached a remarkable milestone of installing 1,000 miles of underground power lines.

Matt Pender ([02:22](#)):

It feels amazing to be making a difference that will last for many, many years, for decades, right? By putting these lines underground and reducing that wildfire risk for these communities for the long run.

Narrator ([02:33](#)):

Combined with other system hardening efforts since 2023, PG&E has permanently removed nearly 8.4% of wildfire ignition risk from our system.

Sumeet Singh ([02:46](#)):

One of the things that we've really focused on is what I call mindset and understanding what has prevented us from moving to action on innovation, because it is all true in my mind that we can deliver safe and reliable and affordable system. Undergrounding is a great example of that.

Narrator ([03:04](#)):

And the teams who make this work possible are always exploring ways to leverage construction innovations and opportunities to reduce costs, never settling for good enough.

Dan ([03:16](#)):

We've tried to stay on the cutting edge with all different aspects of it so that we can put this together in the most economical way possible.

Narrator ([03:25](#)):

And when contractors pull from the local workforce, it not only helps projects run more efficiently, but it contributes to the local economy. And most importantly, communities are empowered to help keep each other safe.

Levi ([03:40](#)):

We want all of our employees to go home every night, to go see their families. There's nothing, no greater satisfaction than being front door famous to your little kids or to your grandchildren if you're coming home to them. We want everyone to feel that.