At Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the safety of the public, our employees and contractors is our top priority. As part of our commitment to safety, PG&E prunes or removes more than 1.4 million trees annually to maintain a safe distance from power lines. Recently, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) passed new regulations for utilities to expand the minimum vegetation clearances and enhance the fire safety of overhead power lines in areas identified as High Fire-Threat Districts.

New safety regulations
The CPUC’s new updated fire safety regulations, under development since 2007 and adopted on December 14, 2017, include several new requirements for electric utilities in California, including PG&E.

These new standards:
• Apply to areas with an elevated or extreme risk of wildfires
• Increase the vegetation clearance around power lines from 18 inches to 48 inches in the High Fire-Threat Districts
• Provide recommended clearances at time of pruning to maintain minimum clearance throughout the year
• May require work on trees not previously managed by our Vegetation Management Program
• May involve some tree removal to maintain minimum clearances and ensure public safety

What to expect
You may see greater clearances between the trees and power lines in your community. Along with the new fire safety clearance requirements, we will also be returning to your area to establish fire safety zones along our power lines and reduce overhanging branches within targeted areas of the High Fire-Threat Districts. This work is important for keeping your community safe and your lights on.

Contact us
For questions, please call 1-800-PGE-5000 (1-800-743-5000) or visit pge.com/newregulations.
What do the new regulations mean for me?
The new regulations increase the minimum clearance between trees and power lines from 18 inches to 48 inches in the High Fire-Threat Districts and include recommended clearances at the time of pruning to accommodate future vegetation growth.

Why are vegetation clearances increasing?
On December 14, 2017, the CPUC adopted new fire safety regulations in response to Southern California wildfires in 2007. These regulations were enacted as part of an ongoing effort to enhance public safety in areas with an elevated or extreme fire risk.

Where will the tree inspections and pruning take place?
Inspections and tree pruning take place year-round throughout PG&E’s 70,000 square-mile service area. We inspect and monitor every overhead electric transmission and distribution line each year, with some locations inspected multiple times. Crews will apply the new tree clearance requirements at locations identified by the CPUC where there is an elevated or extreme wildfire risk.

Where can I find more information about the new regulations?
For more information about the new fire safety regulations and vegetation management clearances, please call 1-800-PGE-5000 (1-800-743-5000). For more information about the new regulations, please visit pge.com/newregulations or cpuc.ca.gov.