



# Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Updated: June 2022



## Wildfire Mitigation Plan

### **Purpose:**

The Wildfire Mitigation Plan describes the range of actions that Salem Electric takes to reduce the threat of wildfire ignition, including its various programs, policies, and procedures. Salem Electric has developed this plan based on information from State and local fire agencies, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC), internal risk analysis, and other industry accepted practices. All programs, policies, and procedures will comply with current and anticipated Oregon PUC and National Electric Safety Code (NESC) regulations and guidelines.

### **Objective:**

To provide safe and reliable power to our members while continuously developing and deploying an integrated Wildfire Mitigation Plan. In order to meet this goal, Salem Electric constructs, maintains, and operates its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that minimizes the wildfire-related risks posed by its electrical lines and equipment.

### **Process:**

A detailed internal analysis of every transmission and distribution circuit operated by Salem Electric was completed in 2020 to identify wildfire risk within the service territory. The Wildfire Mitigation Plan was then implemented to reduce the potential for wildfire ignitions and more effectively respond to wildfire risk conditions.

### **Service Territory:**

Salem Electric has a defined service territory of 17.5 square miles serving areas of West Salem, downtown Salem, Northeast Salem, and Keizer, Oregon. This densely populated, urban territory is contained to two counties: Marion County and Polk County.

### **Risk Analysis Result:**

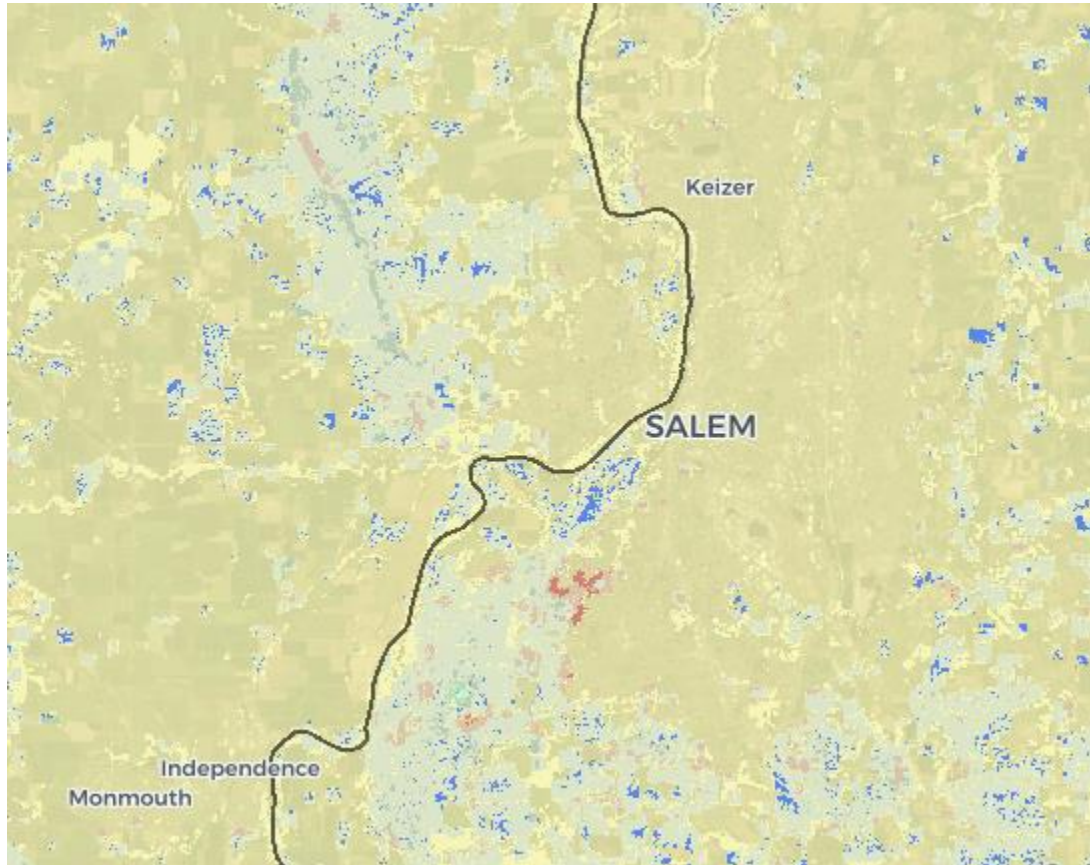
Due to an urban service territory, the risk analysis concluded that Salem Electric's wildfire risk is minimal (Salem Electric has no high-risk areas). Salem Electric does not own or operate any electrical facilities within a national forest, state forest, BLM, or any other high-consequence area.

Fire departments from Salem and Keizer respond to all areas of Salem Electric's service territory. The combination of a small and urban service territory means a quick response time from local fire departments and reduced wildfire risk.

Figure 1 shows the Advanced Wildfire Risk Explorer analysis of Salem Electric's service territory. This analysis was captured with the following layers turned on: overall wildfire risk, wildfire risk to assets, wildfire risk to people and property, burn probability, average flame length, probability of exceeding 4' flames, probability of exceeding 8' flames, and overall wildfire risk – watershed. The analysis concluded that Salem Electric's wildfire risk is low throughout the service territory.

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Figure 1 - Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer Analysis



The following feeders are located in less urban areas with thicker vegetation: 1213, 1214, 1215, 1231, 1232, 1233, and 1235. Breakers and reclosers associated with these feeders are included in Salem Electric's Wildfire Mitigation Operating Procedures for red flag warnings. Future reclosers will be added to the Wildfire Mitigation Operating Procedures as they are installed on these circuits.

### **Components:**

Salem Electric's Wildfire Mitigation Plan consists of three main components: Vegetation Management, System Coordination, and System Hardening. The plan was developed using a systematic approach, which will allow for immediate action items as well as short-term and long-term implementation.

#### Vegetation Management

- Continue right-of-way trimming (performed by Salem Electric crews and contracted tree trimmers).
- Conduct hazard tree assessment and removal for vegetation outside of the existing right-of-way.

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- Vegetation/wildfire inspections in areas with potential risk prior to fire season.
- Analyze results from vegetation/wildfire inspections throughout the service territory.

### System Coordination

- Dispatchers will review the fire weather map provided by The National Weather Service/NOAA for fire level status throughout our service territory.
  - Dispatchers will activate non-reclose on feeder breakers and reclosers when a red flag warning is in effect for Salem Electric's service territory or at the engineering & operations manager's discretion.
  - Dispatchers will monitor the distribution system via SCADA during red flag conditions during and outside of normal business hours.
- A protection coordination study for Salem Electric's distribution system was completed in 2020. All coordination changes have been implemented and are operating as intended.

### System Hardening

- Continue to test and replace wood poles throughout the Salem Electric's service territory.
- Install fiberglass cross arms for any new installation or replacement.
- Implement system-hardening projects that are suggested from the wildfire/vegetation inspection reports.

### **Public Safety Power Shutoff:**

Salem Electric will not implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) for wildfire mitigation purposes. The risk analysis concluded that Salem Electric's wildfire risk is very low and that a PSPS will not be necessary.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is the supplier of Salem Electric's power. BPA has a wildfire mitigation PSPS that could affect Salem Electric's operations. A standard operating procedure has been created for engineering & operations to follow in the event of a BPA PSPS.

### **Implementation:**

Implement the Wildfire Mitigation Plan as described above. Identify future system hardening projects and increase budget for wildfire mitigation purposes as needed. Continue to monitor industry best practices for protection and coordination changes that can reduce wildfire hazards. Continue system and vegetation inspections throughout Salem Electric's service territory.