

Scoping Meeting: Utility Vegetation Management Best Practices For Wildfire Safety

February 10, 2023



Click the link to access the recording
of this scoping meeting:

https://youtu.be/6DvA-PW75_I

Questions? Email
colin.lang@energysafety.ca.gov



Agenda

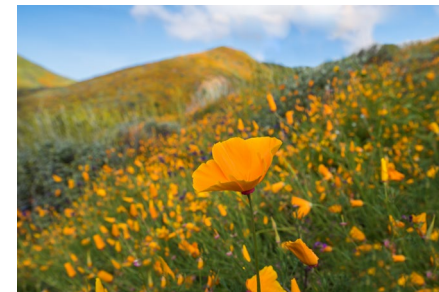


9 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Introduction & Agenda Review
9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Speaker: Stephen R. Cieslewicz, Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) Consultant and Host of The UVM Podcast
9:30 a.m. – 9:50 p.m.	Speaker: Lawrence J. Kahn, Director, Utility Vegetation Management Initiative at Tulane Law School
9:50 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Q&A with Speakers
10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break
10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Presentation by Energy Safety: Proposal to Establish UVM Best Management Practices for Wildfire Safety
10:40 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Roundtable Discussion
12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Next Steps and Closeout

Q&A with Steve and Larry

If you wish to ask a question:

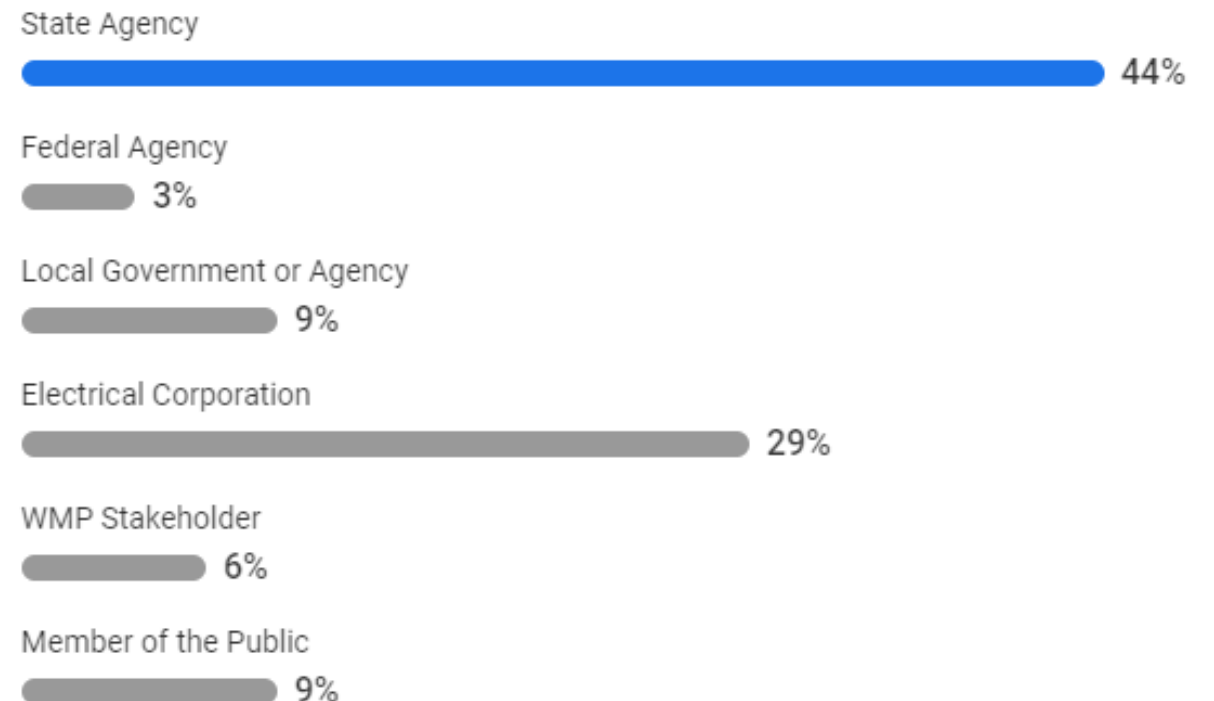
- Press the “raise hand” button on Zoom, participants will be unmuted in order of hands raised
- Dial-in participants need to press #2 to raise hand
- Use Zoom’s Q&A functions to write a question. Questions will be read by the moderator





Which category best describes your affiliation? (34 responses)

Which category best describes your affiliation?



Presentation by Energy Safety: Proposal to Establish UVM Best Management Practices for Wildfire Safety



PROBLEM STATEMENT



Current industry standards and regulations do not provide adequate guidance on how utilities should manage vegetation to prevent vegetation-caused outages and ignitions in high fire risk areas. As a result, utilities have adopted differing strategies to raise the standard of care in high-risk areas.

Utilities, Energy Safety, and relevant stakeholders must strive to determine effective practices and establish standards/expectations for vegetation management for reducing wildfire risk, while considering the diverse biological and cultural resources of California.



SCOPING MEETING GOALS

- Identify and prioritize UVM practices in need of standardization for wildfire safety
- Explore how to achieve alignment among electrical corporations

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY GOAL

Establish standards and expectations for vegetation management to mitigate outages and wildfire risk in high fire risk areas, that consider the diverse biological and cultural resources of California



Topics explored during pre-meetings with PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E.

Common Topics Among Utilities:

- Hazard Tree Inspection, including off-ROW hazard management
- Remote Sensing Integration (LiDAR, Satellite, drone, weather forecasting)
- Efficient Distribution ROW Management, including Integrated Vegetation Management/ "Forest Resilience Corridors"

Other Topics Discussed:

- Employee/Contractor Training
- Contract Management/ Structure
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Pole Clearing beyond PRC 4292
- Data Management/Tree Inventory
- Communication/Notice with Customers/Landowners
- Post-fire restoration/recovery including worker safety in burned areas

ALIGNMENT AMONG ELECTRICAL CORPORATIONS



Energy Safety Proposed Process to Achieve Alignment:

1. Individual utilities take lead on an identified UVM topic. For example: IOU1 takes lead on hazard tree mitigation and IOU2 takes lead on vegetation/tree inventory.
2. Utilities host targeted workshops/field visits on assigned topic.
3. Utilities develop standard/white paper (or similar) on assigned topic.
4. Energy Safety, utilities and relevant stakeholders agree on standards/white paper (or similar).
5. Standards are integrated into WMPs.
6. Standards are revisited at specified intervals.

How to Participate in the Roundtable

If you wish to participate:

- Press the “raise hand” button on Zoom, participants will be unmuted in order of hands raised.
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Roundtable norms:

- Stay on topic.
- Respect each others differing thoughts or opinions.
- Remain open to new ideas.



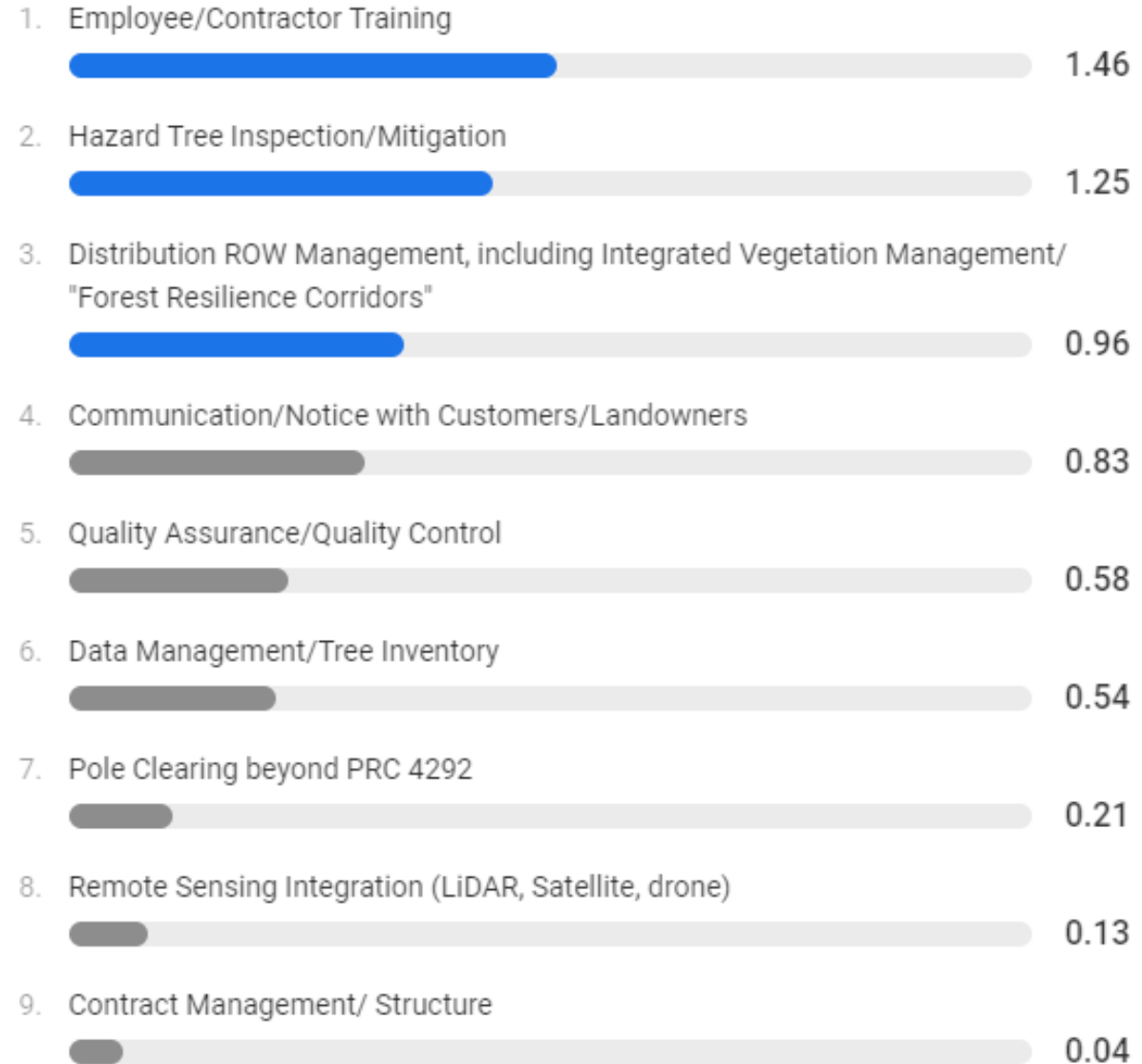
What UVM practices for wildfire mitigation need standardization/alignment?

What are your thoughts on Energy Safety's proposed process to achieve alignment on priority UVM topics?

Live Poll Results

What UVM practices for wildfire mitigation need standardization/alignment? (24 responses)

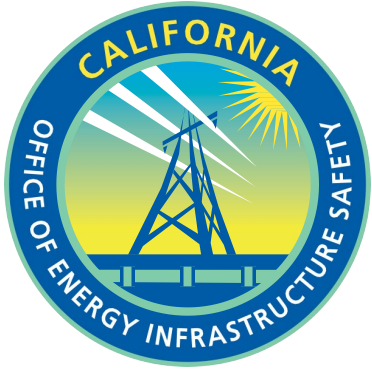
What UVM practices for wildfire mitigation need standardization/alignment?



Post-Scoping Meeting Survey

<https://forms.office.com/g/K9VT8P91zg>





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