

# HOW TO PROTECT THE TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY FROM PG&E

**P**G&E has tagged one or more healthy trees growing on or near your property for destruction. This tree (or trees) is just one of the vast numbers of trees growing along PG&E's 100,000 miles of transmission lines throughout California that PG&E has destroyed or declared its intent to destroy.

There are some streets in the East Bay hills where the tallest trees on numerous lots have been tagged for destruction. These streets will be unrecognizable after PG&E crews sweep through with chainsaws to degrade the very thing that makes the neighborhood so desirable: the natural beauty upon which property values depend. The removal of trees may also increase hillside erosion.

While PG&E is claiming that they want to destroy trees on both private and public property for public safety, many environmentalists are crying foul. They are demanding that PG&E upgrade and harden its equipment as other public utilities, such as San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, are doing. Instead, PG&E is trying to force local homeowners to bear the burdens associated with their attempt to limit liability from their own faulty and inadequate equipment. By using only insulated wires and lightning fast circuit breaker technology that can cut the power to a broken electric line before it hits the ground, fire risk from downed wires can be reduced without killing trees. Environmentalists are also demanding that PG&E use its \$1 billion in credit reserves to put wires underground, eliminating any danger.

On the reverse side of this flyer is information about how to identify the trees on your property that may be targeted for destruction, whether or not you live on a street already designated for eventual undergrounding of wires, and steps you can take to protect your trees, the beauty of your block, and the value of your property.



**CALL  
877-295-4949  
or email  
wildfiresafety@pge.com  
to protect your  
trees**

# What You Need to Know

If any trees on your property are marked with a spray painted dot, they will be trimmed (from ground to sky). If they are marked with a spray painted X or bear a PG&E sign, they will be cut down.

If the trees are more than four feet radial from power lines, you can force PG&E to trim them, rather than cut them down, at THEIR expense. Do not be intimidated by threats of liability. They can only cut down trees more than four feet from power lines with your permission.



Check your property deed to see what the scope of PG&E's easement is. Some easements in property deeds don't allow for tree removal.

## What You Can Do to Protect Your Trees

Contact PG&E at 1-877-295-4949 and email [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com) to state that you do not consent to any tree work on your property until you have spoken directly to a PG&E supervisor to describe exactly what you will allow (if anything) and you have a written agreement with PG&E. Past experience demonstrates that verbal agreements will not be communicated properly to tree cutting companies doing the work. Please note that a conversation with an employee of a tree cutting company is not adequate; demand to speak with a PG&E supervisor.

Be sure to send a follow-up email to [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com) regarding your position or whatever was agreed upon after initial outreach.

Put signs on specific trees to let ground crews know which trees you want to protect, as homeowners in other parts of California report that PG&E has killed trees even after homeowners objected.

We also encourage you to sign our petition demanding that the California Public Utilities Commission order PG&E to upgrade equipment and put all transmission lines underground, rather than degrade our neighborhoods by cutting down trees: [goo.gl/eXyVn3](http://goo.gl/eXyVn3).

## Undergrounding of Wires in Piedmont Pines

A three-part plan to underground wires in the Piedmont Pines neighborhood of Oakland is underway (despite the fact that some trees on these streets are still tagged for destruction). Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 (Chelton corridor) is expected to be completed by 2020 (if not sooner). Streets for this project include parts or all of Chelton, Girvin, Carisbrook, Ascot, Chatsworth, Darnby, Rydal Ct. and parts of Skyline. Phase 3 (Castle corridor) will begin as Phase 2 work wraps up. Phase 3 streets include all or parts of Castle Drive, Castle Park Way, Mastlands Drive, and Mountaingate Way. To see maps of these projects, visit: [goo.gl/eXyVn3](http://goo.gl/eXyVn3).