

Uniting Power & People in Times of Change

WILDFIRE CHALLENGES FACING ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Panel Discussion: Curtis Mansfield, Senior Vice President, Power Delivery, PacifiCorp – Moderator
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ADDRESSING RISKS AND IMPACTS

Complex Legal Environment

- Electric utilities face complex, punitive legal challenges due to wildfire-related liabilities, including billion-dollar lawsuits

Liability Protections and Risks

- New state laws offer limited liability protections, but utilities must prove no gross negligence to avoid penalties

Inverse Condemnation Laws

- California's inverse condemnation laws hold utilities liable for wildfire damages regardless of fault, increasing financial exposure.

Fragmented Wildfire Policies

- Inconsistent state policies hinder coordinated wildfire management and complicate resource allocation across utilities

Need for Holistic Strategy

- Experts call for a unified, data-driven national strategy including federal standards and infrastructure development in high-risk zones.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

- PSPS proactively cut power during high-risk wildfire conditions to prevent ignition but impact customer trust and satisfaction

